

Hafa Adai!

Guam-based PASAI director visits Saipan. **PAGE 2**

\$5M pushed for NMI, FAS for Climate-Ready Coasts projects. **PAGE 5**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

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TO SUSTAIN COVERAGE SIMILAR TO PRESUMPTIVE MEDICAID

## 'Removal of funding cap needed'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Medicaid Agency continues to suffer due to diminishing funds and, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña, remov-



Muña

ing the capped funding is necessary in order for the agency to continue to provide services and expand available medical services.

See REMOVAL on Page 4

## CPA, IPI-contracted yacht firm settle

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority and Phoenix Services Inc., the yacht firm contracted by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in 2016 to

provide yachting services for its VIP clients, have reached a settlement in the ongoing breach of contract lawsuit CPA filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

CPA, through attorney Robert Tor-

See CPA on Page 4



### BLUE MASS

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, alongside law enforcement officers and law enforcement department heads, are blessed during the annual Blue Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. The Mass paid tribute to law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and those who continue to serve today. The occasion was also in line with the proclamation that designated the week of May 14-20, 2023 as CNMI Police Week.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### 'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until  
'touchback rule'  
takes effect on  
Sept. 30, 2023:

137

## MPLT questions authority of previous DPL admin's grant of \$500K for Garapan Revitalization Project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORT

The Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees has questioned the authority of the previous Department of Public Land administration for several actions, includ-



Mendiola-Long

ing granting the use of \$500,000 for the Garapan Revitalization Project.

MPLT board chair Phillip Mendiola-Long

said the DPL secretary has no authority to grant or divert public land lease revenue outside of its costs of administration, management, land surveying, and homestead development.

See MPLT on Page 4

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Joint Region Marianas continues to combat the invasive snake species on the island of Guam.

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### BUSINESS

Guam Regional Medical City celebrated the 100th birthday of Magdalena Taitano Perez Fausto.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Kelly Clarkson has responded to a report accusing her talk show of being a toxic workplace.

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PASAI program director Doris Flores Brooks, fourth from left, poses with staff from the Office of the Public Auditor for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

## Local

### Guam-based PASAI director visits Saipan

Guam-based program director for the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions Doris Flores Brooks visited Saipan last week on an advocacy and knowledge-sharing mission.

The primary purpose of Brooks' trip was to explain to the staff at the Office of the Public Auditor for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands how PASAI can help improve its capabilities.

Brooks, who is herself the former Public Auditor of Guam, made a presentation to interim public auditor Dora I. DeLeon Guerrero and other audit staff on the independent performance assessment of their office. The office's assessment indicated its performance audit standards, quality management and results stood out as strengths.

However, high staff turnover at the office since the baseline assessment took place made it especially opportune to familiarize staff with the report and discuss how PASAI's program of work can address the gaps it identified. With a strategic plan now in place, the office is committed to tracking its progress against the report.

Such assessments have been completed for all 20 member offices who are beneficiaries of PASAI's programs and were

done using the internationally recognized Performance Measurement Framework.

In the CNMI, the Public Auditor's duties include investigating possible cases of fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. As such, Brooks met with the office's investigators as well.

Advocacy is one of PASAI's strategic priorities, so while on Saipan Brooks made courtesy visits to senior government officials to promote the importance of actioning recommendations made by the OPA and maintaining its overall independence. Among those she met were Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang; Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero; and newly confirmed Finance Secretary Tracy Norita.

According to Brooks, majority of government employees in CNMI are working reduced hours due to an austerity program recently implemented by the governor.

"I was able to share insights that the Government of Guam went through when it too was faced with dire economic conditions," she said.

PASAI acknowledges the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *(PASAI)*



PASAI

PASAI program director Doris Flores Brooks and interim CNMI public auditor Dora I. DeLeon Guerrero meets with CNMI Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang.



PASAI

PASAI program director Doris Flores Brooks and interim CNMI public auditor Dora I. DeLeon Guerrero meets with Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero.



PASAI

PASAI program director Doris Flores Brooks and interim CNMI public auditor Dora I. DeLeon Guerrero meets with Finance Secretary Tracy Norita.

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# DOC reinstating programs to aid inmates' rehab



Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony C. Torres shakes the hand of Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri Ogumoro last Friday. The CNMI Office of the Governor, first lady Wella S. Palacios, and the CNMI Office of Women's Affairs presented gift baskets to Karidat Social Services, DOC, and the Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation HOPE Recovery Center for distribution to mothers utilizing the services of these departments and organizations.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Corrections is slowly reinstating various programs within the correctional facility to help eligible inmates in their journey to rehabilitation.

DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres stated that part of his vision for the department

is operational excellence and public safety through rehabilitation.

As part of that vision, Torres has already begun "cleaning house" by confiscating contraband and launching an investigation within the department to get to the bottom of how these contraband were brought in in the first place.

"[This is] part of my vi-

sion to provide public safety through rehabilitation and operational excellence. Before I can even get to the rehabilitation phase, I need to clean house. I've [been] flipping this place upside down [since I got here]," he said.

Once he is satisfied with the investigation, Torres said he will prioritize rehabilitation for inmates. In fact, Torres

said, he has begun reinstating program for inmates at DOC.

"I'm already slowly bringing in programs like religious Bible studies. We're working on the first re-entry program with SAR and the HOPE Center. These are things that we're working on. I'm expanding on the outreach program, we're working on getting the kitchen back up and running again so that our inmates can start cooking their own food, and the list

goes on. Another program I'm looking at expanding is the in-treatment service for inmates who can't go outside. That's on my plate. But right now, the security of the institution sets the priority—setting that foundation and getting us to where we need to be—and we're getting there. For the last three to four months, this place has just been transformed," he said.

Torres added that the dedicated staff at DOC also played a huge role in bringing his vision to life.

"The staff that are committed are just coming out and they appreciate the leadership and we're just working together. There are good people here who do good things," he said.

In addition to rehabilitation programs, Torres said he will also work toward providing more training for the CNMI's Corrections officers.

"We're going to start prioritizing training as well, getting trainers out here to train our staff to become trainers so we can just train here without having to go out to the mainland as we are in tough times. Getting our trainers to train our personnel to become trainers—that's part of my vision," he said.

In a previous interview with Torres, he stated that so far, seven cell phones have been confiscated from inmates and drugs like methamphetamine were also confiscated. Torres said investigation into how these items got inside DOC continues.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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## NMI will get \$3.4M for 9 projects on climate change resilience

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORT

The CNMI will receive \$3.4 million in federal funds to carry out nine projects for climate change resilience and ecosystem efforts, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan disclosed in his *e-kilili* newsletter that the U.S. Department of the Interior announced Thursday that the Marianas will get \$3.44 million through funding from the Inflation Reduction Act that the U.S. Congress passed

into law last year.

Sablan said the CNMI government will be receiving \$2.79 million directly for eight projects; the U.S. Geological



Sablan

Survey will use the remaining \$649,996 to evaluate coral reef restoration on Saipan, Tinian, and other islands. The eight projects are:

■ \$903,070 to restore and rehabilitate Jeffrey's Beach;

■ \$540,423 to update the CNMI Stormwater Management Manual;

■ \$323,131 to promote food security for Saipan families through the Home Gar-

dens Food Security Initiative; ■ \$322,525 to improve stormwater drainage and rehabilitate the shoreline at Tanapag Beach Park;

■ \$258,020 to manage stormwater and mitigate land-based pollution at the Lower Base Lift Station;

■ \$215,914 to promote food security through Rota's "Ta Tanom: Let's Plant" project.

■ \$135,461 to improve stormwater infrastructure at Tanapag Middle School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School

■ \$87,460 to fund National Environmental Policy Act project compliance



El D. Cabrera  
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
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Richard V. Salas  
Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF RENEWAL

### CRM WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT

## RENEWAL DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2023

### NOTICE TO ALL CNMI MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS

THE DIVISION COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) OF THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ-DCRM) WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL MARINE SPORT OPERATORS THAT RENEWAL OF YOUR WATERSPORTS AND RECREATIONAL PERMIT EXPIRES ON MAY 30TH, 2023. TO AVOID ANY INTERRUPTION OF YOUR WATERSPORTS ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SUBMIT **A COMPLETE CRM PERMIT APPLICATION** TO DCRM ON OR BEFORE THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE. TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION OF YOUR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION, PLEASE ATTACH ALL REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WITH YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION INCLUDING A COPY OF YOUR PAYMENT RECEIPT ISSUED BY THE CNMI TREASURY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CRM PERMIT APPLICATION IS FINAL AND COMPLETE PRIOR TO SUBMISSION. SUBMISSION OF AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT MR. NEIL TAISACAN AT [ntaisacan@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:ntaisacan@dcrm.gov.mp) OR MS. PRIMROSE TAITANO AT [ptaitano@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:ptaitano@dcrm.gov.mp) OR, BY CALLING (670) 664-8300.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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# Yumul: Beach Road project contractor working on staging area

Everything appears to be moving forward with the long-awaited Beach Road Improvement Project, according to Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul, who said yesterday that he will have an official update on the project today, Tuesday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for an update of the project, Yumul said last week that contractor GPPC and Department of Public Works project managers and engineers recently met to go through with the timelines and

other related matters.

Yumul said the project appears to be moving well and that GPPC's only issue is trying to find a lot along Beach Road for their staging area.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the Division of Fish and Wildlife had

disapproved the first proposed staging area due to nightingale red warblers were found there.

Yumul also disclosed that the contractor accidentally damaged last week a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. waterline located across

Mt. Carmel Church.

Phase 2, 3, and 4 of the project broke ground last February. The multi-million federally-funded project involves the resurfacing and other improvements to a significant portion of Beach Road. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



## MPLT

From Page 1

Mendiola-Long raised concerns over DPL's grant of the use of DPL funds for the Garapan Revitalization Project in supporting House Bill 23-28, which clarifies the process for appropriation of DPL's administrative expenses and the timely transfer of funds to MPLT.

Rep. Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, is the author of the legislation.

Camacho says there are ambiguities in the relationship between the responsibilities of DPL regarding the collection and expense of money related to public lands and the duty of MPLT to receive and invest public land money. To resolve this ambiguity, Camacho said his bill expressly places DPL within the normal budgeting process for an Executive Branch agency.

In the MPLT board's written comments last April 24 to Camacho and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Mendiola-Long pointed out that the DPL fiscal year 2020 report highlights that the then-DPL secretary granted the use of \$500,000 for the Garapan Revitalization Project.

Mendiola-Long noted that the *MPLT vs. MPLC* case decision prohibits DPL from using revenue collected to "create infrastructure" such as roads, water lines or sewer lines. However, Mendiola-Long said, the DPL secretary narrows this court statement or restriction as confined to "public land designated within the homestead program" and not a capital improvement project in Garapan.

"What then was this 'grant' for the Garapan Revitalization project?" asked the chairman, adding that the DPL secretary has no authority to divert revenue in this manner and the two House committees should find

this action a violation of the Constitution, Public Law 15-2, and the DPL secretary's fiduciary duty as a trustee of public land lease funds.

Mendiola-Long said the same FY 2020 annual report states that DPL reported an accumulated debt from delinquent accounts of companies and individuals, which according to him presumably means leases and permits.

"This is disconcerting, given the amount outstanding," he said.

Mendiola-Long said in the FY 2020 Annual Report, DPL has only billed \$1 million in delinquent leases and permit charges and of this billing has only collected \$500,000.

The chairman said there is no transparency nor disclosure as to who the delinquent lessees are, the amount each lessee or permittee owes and DPL's action as to each delinquent lessee.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## POLICE WEEK

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, along with Public Safety Commissioner Clement R. Bermudes, Fire and Emergency Medical Services acting commissioner Juan A. Pua, Corrections Commissioner Anthony C. Torres, Commonwealth Ports Authority Ports Police chief Juan T. Dela Cruz, and representatives of various law enforcement agencies gather yesterday morning at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral for the Blue Mass, which paid tribute to fallen law enforcement officers, as well as those who continue to serve today. The event was part of the annual observance of CNMI Police Week.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## CPA

From Page 1

res; and Phoenix Services, through attorney Stephen Nutting, informed District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy last Thursday that they have reached a settlement agreement.

"Court noted that parties were in a settlement conference earlier today and have reached a settlement. Parties further discussed and clarified the terms of the settlement. All parties agreed to material terms of settlement," Kennedy stated.

The judge vacated pending dates in this matter and ordered the parties to file a stipulated motion to dismiss on or before May 22, 2023.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, CPA filed a breach of contract suit against Phoenix Services Inc. and Pride Keen Limited, the two companies that IPI had hired to provide VIP amenities to IPI patrons in the form of access to or use of luxury yachts.

CPA's lawsuit named Phoenix Services as the entity that procured the yachts from Pride Keen and signed a lease agreement with CPA for the use of Saipan's commercial docks. Due to breaching this agreement, CPA claims Phoenix Services owes the agency over \$91,000 in delinquent fees. CPA was demanding damages to be determined at trial, plus interest of 9% per year.

According to the lawsuit, Phoenix Services leased Charlie Dock 2 from CPA from December 2015 to November 2020. In October 2019, Phoenix Services submitted a bunker application in order to also lease Delta Dock from CPA. CPA and Phoenix

Services entered into an agreement, with CPA issuing the entity a revocable permit for the use of Delta Dock. Phoenix agreed to pay home port fees per vessel that would be docked there, in addition to a monthly permit fee.

Sometime in March 2020, the business scheme faltered and ceased operations due to the pandemic and Phoenix Services failed to pay for both the use of Charlie Dock 2 and Delta Dock.

CPA entered into an alternative agreement with Phoenix Services soon after, reducing the fees for the use of Delta Dock in consideration of the pandemic and its impact on the economy.

Then, in February 2021, Phoenix Services asked for discounts on the monthly permit fee, to which CPA obliged by waiving 50% of the monthly permit fee from October 2020 to March 2021. CPA also provided the company with a draft of a promissory note for repayments toward past due fees.

On March 30, 2021, CPA and Phoenix Services entered into an agreement regarding the promissory note, with Phoenix Services promising CPA that it would pay its debts from the Charlie Dock lease agreement and the Delta Dock permit. The total amount due to CPA is \$91,827.35.

Phoenix Services has only made two payments toward the promissory note—a \$5,000 payment on April 28, 2021, and another on July 16, 2021, totaling \$10,000.

Phoenix Services has made no additional payments, CPA states, even after CPA's notice of default and demand for full payment on Sept. 29, 2021.

## REMOVAL

From Page 1

For the last few years, nearly everyone in the CNMI were given access to uncompensated care, thanks to Presumptive Eligibility for Medicaid, and that helped make health services affordable. However, if we want this to continue for the CNMI, the removal of capped funding is necessary, Muña said.

"As we see with the announcement of depleting funds of Medicaid when providing coverages like these, there needs to be the removal of the capped funding, which territories, like the CNMI, are unfortunately subjected to," she said.

Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that finances medical services for low-income individuals. However, U.S. territories like the CNMI operate Medicaid programs under rules that differ from those ap-

plicable to the 50 states.

For example, the CNMI's Medicaid program operates under the Section 1902(j) waiver authority. Under this rule, the Medicaid requirements that may not be waived are the federal matching rate; the annual federal capped funding; and the requirement that Medicaid payments are for services otherwise coverable.

"With capped funding, it is difficult for Medicaid to consider future expansion of services, even though individuals will lose access to critical health care. I hope the capped funding is removed soon so there is a discussion to expand medical services and bring health initiatives to the CNMI," she said.

In speaking about the end of Presumptive Eligibility for Medicaid, Muña said PE significantly impacted the CNMI community, as CHCC saw many individuals who did not have health insurance avail of medical services at low to no cost. This was

especially important due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Medicaid PE made it possible for the uninsured to have coverage, which is very significant since, before the Medicaid PE, many individuals in the CNMI did not have the means to health insurance. This coverage was especially needed during the public health emergency as loss of coverage occurred with the loss of jobs. The coverage provided individuals access to primary care and, in some cases, more specialized care and treatment. For CHCC, it helped with uncompensated care and helped bring affordability to health services. We saw many patients who had their first visit only when they had PE coverage," she said.

Presumptive eligibility for Medicaid expired last May 11, along with the National Public Health Emergency that was put in place to combat the COVID-19 outbreak back in 2020.



## \$5M pushed for Climate-Ready Coasts projects for NMI, FAS

The Department of Commerce has recommended \$5 million for projects in the CNMI and Freely Associated States to make communities more resilient to climate changes, as part of the Investing in

America agenda.

Across the Commonwealth, two projects will create jobs and enhance economic and environmental outcomes for coastal communities.

The awards are made un-

der the Biden Administration's Climate-Ready Coasts initiative funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with additional funds leveraged from the Inflation Reduction Act.

## Protection of Guam's natural resources continues with work against invasive BTS

By **RACHEL LANDERS**  
JOINT REGION MARIANAS

**ASAN, Guam**—The Joint Region Marianas Brown Tree Snake Eradication Program continues to combat the invasive snake species on the island of Guam.

The brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*) has disturbed the ecological balance of Guam since the 1950s, when the species first arrived, stowed away in shipping materials. On the island, the tree snakes prey on various small animals, including lizards, birds, and bats.

"They are opportunistic feeders," said Megan Parker, a natural resources specialist with JRM. "Since they were introduced, there has been a cascading effect. They eat the birds; fewer birds mean more pests and diseases and then there are no native birds to spread native seeds—that's another big impact."

Aside from birds, the snakes prey on other small animals, including lizards and bats. The ripple effects have been significant.

Marc Hall, the JRM conservation programs supervisor, said, "Brown tree snakes are probably the biggest limiting factor to the recovery of listed vertebrates [on Guam]—bats and birds. There are many factors that contribute to the recovery of those species, but the brown tree snakes seem to be causing the majority of the problem."

JRM has been involved in efforts to address the invasive species for years. Partnerships between the Department of Defense and the Guam Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture allow for interdiction and mitigation.

Since 1994, interdiction programs have included traps on airfields fences and inspections conducted by specially trained brown tree snake detection dogs. The long-running programs ensure snakes do not stow away on military equipment or shipping containers leaving the island.

"It's a very successful program," Hall said. "The basic model continues to be productive. The last live snake to have escaped Guam was back in 2006 in a munitions container

that ended up in Oklahoma."

Mitigation efforts have also been unfolding with success. In 2011, 135 acres of jungle on Andersen Air Force Base were designated as a Habitat Management Unit for ecological study.

Leanne Obra, the JRM Brown Tree Snake program manager, explained that the HMU started as a 'multi-species barrier enclosure', or fenced area designed to keep out invasive snakes, pigs, and deer. The barrier helps control the area for environmental study on the snake population. The fencing surrounding the site has been rendered snake-proof via a large protruding bump on the fence line four feet above the ground.

"The snakes can't climb over it because the bump requires them to put about two-thirds of their body weight upside down, and their tails can't support that," Obra explained.

The HMU has been a haven for scientific study on forest recovery and a measuring stick for the ecological health of the island. Because the snake population within the HMU can be closely observed for signs of environmental impact, the area is perfect for conducting routine bait drops in the battle

against the invasive snakes.

The bait drop is an essential part of brown tree snake mitigation. A multi-day helicopter drop occurs every 90 days and is coordinated with the USDA. The mitigation is conducted using a UH-6 helicopter custom-fitted with an automated bait dispenser. The helicopter makes several passes over the HMU while the automated dispenser drops Tylenol-laced bait into the trees. The bait presents itself as an easy snack for the arboreal brown tree snake, but the snakes have proteins in their blood that cannot function after ingesting Tylenol.

Over the past five years, the Brown Tree Snake Program has dropped 46,200 baits in the HMU, and the effect is noticeable. The environmental experts managing the area notice that it's harder and harder to find the snake species within the HMU, and signs point to a dwindling population.

"We continue to coordinate with our partners, operations personnel, and administrators to not only prevent the spread of brown tree snake from Guam but to suppress and control brown tree snake numbers to reduce their impact on the island of Guam and to restore the island's ecosystems," Obra said.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is proud to assist our partners in local government on removing marine debris," said Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. "Thanks to the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, we are making significant investments in protecting America's waterways and coastal habitats."

Administered by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Climate-Ready Coasts initiative is focused on investing in high-impact projects that create climate solutions by storing carbon; build resilience to coastal hazards such as extreme weather events, pollution and marine debris; restore coastal habitats that help wildlife and humans thrive; build the capacity of underserved communities and support community-driven restoration; and provide employment opportunities.

"Partnerships are critical in the important work of developing nature-based solutions to habitat degradation, and assessing and removing marine debris," said NOAA administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "This historic investment will put the community

at the forefront of important decisions as they work to design restoration plans and tackle the problem of abandoned and derelict vessels."

"Congress and the Biden-Harris Administration worked hard to enact the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, making historic investments in our nation's infrastructure while also putting us on a path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and battle the climate crisis," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP). "These laws also help coastal communities like the Marianas build coastal resilience, restore habitat, and create jobs. The Marianas is the beneficiary of two NOAA grant projects—one to restore watershed habitats on the island of Saipan, and another to assess and remove abandoned and derelict vessels. These projects can demonstrate how habitat restoration and nature-based solutions can build community resilience. I look forward to seeing more Climate Ready Coasts initiative projects in the Marianas."

This project is part of NOAA's nearly \$6 billion total investment under BIL and IRA. Recommended projects and funding amounts in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Freely Associated States include:

■ Abandoned and Derelict Vessel and Large Marine Debris Removal Partnership between the U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States

*Pacific Coastal Research & Planning: \$4 million*

Funding Source: Marine Debris Removal Competition

This project will remove abandoned and derelict vessels in the CNMI and large marine debris in Palau. The project will seek to establish and build marine debris removal partnerships in the territories and Freely Associated States.

■ Project Site Prioritization, Design, and Implementation of Achugao and Laolao Bay on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

*Pacific Coastal Research & Planning: \$1 million*

Funding Source: Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities

Pacific Coastal Research & Planning will collaborate with partners and communities to restore habitat in the Achugao and Laolao Bay watersheds on the island of Saipan. The project will serve as a demonstration of how habitat restoration and nature-based solutions can address community resilience. Local resource managers and stakeholders will play a key role, so they can apply these practices to projects in other CNMI communities. (NOAA)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-018

#### OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-018, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 23, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY JR.  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



### NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net  
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

#### PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, January 3, 2022, **Legacy Solutions, LLC (Cody T. and Tracy B. Norita)** applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Affordable Rental Housing Development Program. On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, Tracy B. Norita was appointed to serve as Department of Finance Secretary, for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Said applicant is aware of the housing needs of Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) families who have been affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. The CNMI has not been able to recover from this disaster quickly enough to meet the community's housing needs. The Legacy Solutions, LLC Rental Housing Development project proposes to build one (1) housing unit, consisting of three bedrooms. The proposed project will contribute to addressing some of the market demands for affordable housing and the current housing shortages our island is experiencing. Tracy B. Norita is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR § 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

**Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Wednesday, May 31, 2023.**

Dated this 16th day of May, 2023.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director



# OAG urges robust funding for Legal Services Corp.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan has joined a bipartisan appeal to the U.S. Congress that urges robust funding for the Legal Services Corporation.

The Legal Services Corporation, or LSC, was established in 1974 by the Legal Services

Corporation Act. The LSC supports equal access to justice by awarding grants to nonprofit organizations that provide civil legal services to those in need, and serves as the nation's single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans.

The powerful impact of the Legal Services Corporation provides significant assistance to those who face an economic barrier to adequate or legal counsel. The bipartisan appeal signed by Manibusan urges Congress to prioritize and in-

vest funding into the LSC as they are essential to ensuring that communities across our nation have access to critically needed civil legal services.

Joining Manibusan are the attorneys general of District of Columbia, Massachu-

setts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Alaska, American Samoa, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey,

New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. **(OAG)**

## Reading Craze Carnival at GES

**By CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

To promote and celebrate reading, Garapan Elementary School held a Reading Craze Carnival last Friday morning, with hundreds of students par-

ticipating in games and activities at their school grounds.

The carnival, which featured over 30 booths, started at 8am and was supposed to last until 10am, but closed a couple of minutes before 10 because of rain. Still, students were seen

having fun and enjoying activities, and games—the rewards of their reading the past month.

As a part of their reading program, and also tying into National Library Month last April, GES started their reading endeavor for the month on April 13 through May 11, culminating in the Reading Craze Carnival on May 12. From April 13 until May 10, students were encouraged to read at their grade level books, and test their comprehension of the stories through AR quizzing. Based off of how they did and what they read, students were given points, which they could use at

the Reading Craze Carnival.

GES principal Derwin Johnson said the carnival was a great success, with many activities and games made possible by their teachers. “Every grade level was involved so we had different games and booths for each level,” he said. From matching ducks, to target games, face painting, spin the wheel, and ring toss, “they were all academic-based learning games, learning activities, and were all literacy based...so they got to incorporate all the building vocabulary and fluency, and have fun at the same time.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Kids participate in games and activities in these scenes from Garapan Elementary School's Reading Craze Carnival last Friday morning.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**BOARD OF PAROLE**  
P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641  
Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310  
E-mail: govbp@pticom.com



**TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES  
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Message:** The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor and the Honorable David Apatang, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the “Open Government Act of 1992”, hereby give Official Notice that a **Parole/Pardon Hearing** is scheduled for **June 01, 2023 (Thursday), beginning at 9:00 a.m.**, at the **Honorable Vicente T. Seman Building, Department of Correctional Facility**, located at Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. The Agenda is as follows:

**PAROLE/PARDON HEARING AGENDA**

**I. Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Presence of Quorum

**II. Consent Items**

1. Adoption of Agenda

**III. Pardon Hearing**

	<b>BOP No.:</b>	<b>Criminal Case No.:</b>
1. Clifford Jack Palacios	22-001-RA	19-0115

**IV. Parole Hearing**

1. Bradley Defang	23-001	21-0016
2. Joshua Martin	23-002-RA	12-0125
3. Titomir K. Bhuiyan	23-003	14-0126C
4. Steven Hasugulgum	23-004-RA	18-0102B/19-0030B/ 19-0033E/19-0034A/19-0035B/ 19-0038E/19-0039A
5. Calistro Crisostomo	23-005-RA	16-0128C


**V. Adjournment**

**If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.**


If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300.

/s/ Lucinda R. Selepeo  
Chairman, Board of Parole

May 12, 2023  
Date



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**  
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court  
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814  
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp • Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCLPB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

**AGENDA**

**I.** Meeting Call to Order

**II.** Determination of Quorum

**III.** Review and Adoption of Agenda

**IV.** Review and Adoption of Minutes (04/20/2023)

**V.** Public Comments

**VI.** Chairperson's Report

**VII.** Director's Report

- Proposed Amendments to the Licensing Regulations for Clinical Psychology Associates, Dentists, Dental Therapists, Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants, and for Telehealth and Telemedicine (Updates)

**VIII.** Investigator's Report

**IX.** Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature

**A.** Governor's Office

**B.** Legislature

**X.** Old Business

**XI.** New Business

- Petition for USMLE Exemption
- CNMI HPSA Primary Care Provider Survey
- Letter to Medicaid Regarding the Non-Licensing of Speech Pathologists

**XII.** Pending Applications for Board's Review

**A.** New Application

**B.** Renewal Application

**XIII.** Miscellaneous Business

**XIV.** Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.

**XV.** Announcements

**A.** Next Meeting Date

**B.** Adjournment of Meeting



**CEDA**  
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147  
www.developcnmi.com



**JOB VACANCY  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

<b>POSITION</b>	COMPTROLLER, exempt
<b>LOCATION AND DEPARTMENT</b>	CEDA SAIPAN OFFICE
<b>PER ANNUM</b>	Minimum \$70,000.00
<b>EMPLOYMENT TERM</b>	Two (2) Year Contract, renewable
<b>EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT</b>	HR 2023-01
<b>OPENING DATE</b>	05/10/2023
<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	05/26/2023 4:00 P.M.

Interested candidates can find the detailed job description and application form for the position on our website at <https://developcnmi.com/jva.html> or by scanning the QR code below.

Applications, along with a cover letter and CV, must be submitted to the CEDA Saipan office at 22390 Beach Road, Oleai, Unit 205, or by email to [m.sablan@developcnmi.com](mailto:m.sablan@developcnmi.com) and copied to [c.kintol@developcnmi.com](mailto:c.kintol@developcnmi.com) on or before the closing date of May 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

For inquiries, please contact Christy Kintol by email or at (670) 234-6245 ext. 310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
Executive Director





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**BOARD OF PAROLE**  
P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641  
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E-mail: govbp@pticom.com



**TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES  
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Message:** The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor and the Honorable David Apatang, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the “Open Government Act of 1992”, hereby give Official Notice that a **Parole/Pardon Hearing** is scheduled for **June 01, 2023 (Thursday), beginning at 9:00 a.m.**, at the **Honorable Vicente T. Seman Building, Department of Correctional Facility**, located at Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. The Agenda is as follows:

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	<b>BOP No.:</b>	<b>Criminal Case No.:</b>
1. Clifford Jack Palacios	22-001-RA	19-0115

**IV. Parole Hearing**

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3. Titomir K. Bhuiyan	23-003	14-0126C
4. Steven Hasugulgum	23-004-RA	18-0102B/19-0030B/ 19-0033E/19-0034A/19-0035B/ 19-0038E/19-0039A
5. Calistro Crisostomo	23-005-RA	16-0128C

**V. Adjournment**

**If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300.

/s/ Lucinda R. Selepeo  
Chairman, Board of Parole

May 12, 2023  
Date



Emory S. Land departs Saipan

By Petty Officer 1st Class  
Victoria Kinney  
USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39)

PHILIPPINE SEA—The submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) departed Saipan last May 5 after a routine port visit. “It was a very productive visit for us,” said Capt. Brent Spillner, commanding officer of Emory S. Land. “We were able to exercise and

improve several key expeditionary capabilities, and we really appreciated the hospitality and patriotic spirit of the local community and CNMI authorities.” Sailors and Military Sealift Command civil service mariners participated in community outreach events to include a beach cleanup, a park cleanup, a historical tour of the island, multiple outdoor recreation trips, and provided ship tours

to students and civic leaders. “I would like to give a special shout out to the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs for the warm welcome we received from them and the local community,” said Lt. Cmdr. Mark Miller, the chaplain assigned to Emory S. Land. “It was our pleasure to be part of the community relations event and clean up the beach. We look forward to a return visit in the future.”



Sailors assigned to the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) pose for a photo for during a beach cleanup at Horiguchi Beach on Saipan last May 3 during a scheduled port visit.



Sailors assigned to the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) pose for a photo before conducting a beach cleanup at Horiguchi Beach on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, May 3, during a scheduled port visit.

U.S. NAVY/MCS LUKE WILSON

“I truly hope that your visit here will last a lifetime and that you will share your wonderful experience with families and others,” said CNMI Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. “On behalf of Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and the people of Saipan, I want to say that your visit here will remain with us forever.” “We also wanted to recognize and express pride in Kevin Barbo, who, as [a] leading chief petty officer of the USS Emory S. Land, plays an important role in the Navy mission of defending our freedom, keeping America safe, and ensuring the seas free and open,” Palacios said. “We are proud of him and all the crew and thank them for their service.” Chief Gunner’s Mate Barbo is a native of Saipan, and was able to visit his family at home for the second time in five years. This is Emory S. Land’s second port visit to Saipan since taking over as the lead maintenance activity from

USS Frank Cable (AS 40) in 2021. Their last visit was in February 2022. Guam is home to the U.S. Navy’s only submarine tenders, Emory S. Land and Frank Cable, as well as several Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines. The submarine tenders are tasked to provide expeditionary intermediate level maintenance and repairs, services, and logistics support to submarines. The submarines and tenders are maintained

as part of the U.S. Navy’s forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements. They are manned by a unique hybrid crew of uniformed Sailors and MSC civil service mariners. U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

USS Milius conducts port visit on Saipan

By PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS  
GREGORY JOHNSON  
TASK FORCE 71/DESTROYER SQUADRON 15

SAIPAN—The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Milius (DDG 69) departed Saipan on May 12 after a scheduled port visit. The port visit provided an opportunity for Milius to enjoy the culture and represent the U.S. Navy’s commitment to security presence in the Pacific. “Visits like this prove the effectiveness of our surface force, to defend the homeland and meeting the challenges we face across the region with continued presence,”

said Capt. Walt Mainor, Commander, Task Force 71/Commandore, Destroyer Squadron 15. “Our sailors are focused on making a difference in our ability to support a free and open Indo-Pacific.” During the port visit, Milius sailors had an opportunity to experience the hospitality, rich history and all that Saipan has to offer. “Team Milius has been highly focused on operations in the Western Pacific over the past several months and this port visit was extremely rewarding for the crew,” said Cmdr. Leif Gunderson, Milius’ commanding officer. “The rich culture and history

was greatly welcomed by the sailors. We look forward to future visits to the beautiful island of Saipan!” CNMI Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said it is was an honor to host the ship. “We are very happy to welcome them because they’ve been out there protecting us,” said Palacios. “Hopefully this is a nice port call and a nice break for the crew, and we would like to welcome them back again.” U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left, meets with Cmdr. Leif Gunderson, center, commanding officer of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Milius (DDG 69), and Command Master Chief Troy Bojorquiz during a scheduled port visit, May 11, 2023.

U.S. NAVY/MCS1 GREG JOHNSON

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)  
RFP23-CHCC/LABORATORY-013  
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 5th, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)  
“LABORATORY EXPANSION PROJECT #2”  
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring and Construction)  
for CHC Hospital / Laboratory Department  
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.  
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.  
/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER /S/ CORA P. ADA DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation  
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a Special Board meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.  
AGENDA  
1. Preliminary Matters  
A. Call to Order  
B. Roll Call  
C. Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting  
II. Personnel Matter  
III. Request for Proposal for Tinian Interim Power Generation Provider  
IV. Public Comments\*  
V. Executive Session\*\*  
VI. Adjournment  
\*Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.  
\*\*Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Name: KELVIN NELSON VALDEZ BALDAZO  
Address: Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 989-7624/ (670) 783-4020  
Pro Se  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS  
In the Matter of the : FCD-AD CIVIL  
Petition for the : ACTION NO.  
Adoption of: : 23-0152  
N.F. -INITIALS ONLY : NOTICE OF  
Minor Child(ren) : HEARING  
By: :  
KELVIN NELSON :  
VALDEZ BALDAZO :  
Petitioner :  
Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 5, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.  
Dated this 4th day of May, 2023.  
Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/  
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 96Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## CNN's Trump debacle was a depressing preview of what we're all about to endure again

American voters, this is where we are in May 2023: Donald Trump seems poised to steamroll over his challengers for the Republican Party's presidential nomination one more time. And thanks a lot, CNN, for helping set the stage.

Wednesday night, the cable news network gave the former president its platform for a 70-minute so-called "town hall," which really amounted to nothing more than a prime-time infomercial for his 2024 campaign. Because we're distressingly familiar with the exhausting routine: The self-proclaimed billionaire who couldn't come up with \$130 grand in cash to pay off a porn star repeatedly barreled over supposed moderator Kaitlan Collins with an effortless string of lies after provable lies. About his political opponents' position on abortion. About the 2020 election. About the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol that he incited in an attempt to overthrow it.

Bewilderingly, CNN packed the New Hampshire audience with Republican loyalists, who were all in with Trump throughout the evening. They applauded when he defended his actions related to the insurrection, including his suggestion that he would circumvent the Justice Department by pardoning people convicted for their seditious actions that day. They laughed when he continued his obscene defamation of E. Jean Carroll, the woman whose account of sexual abuse had been quickly found credible by a jury of nine—not a "Trump-hating, Clinton-appointed judge," in his words—just 30-some hours before.

The network has taken heavy, deserved heat for airing the debacle. "CNN knew what Trump would do, and they not only let him do it, they gave a him a friendly crowd who cheered for his crimes," tweeted Reed Galen, former press secretary for Dan Quayle and Newt Gingrich. For her part, host Collins tried to stanch the flow of falsehoods. "The election was not rigged, Mr. President," she told Trump. "You cannot keep saying that all night long."

But he did. To its credit, CNN published an account of its own misdeeds in airing the program from its senior media reporter Oliver Darcy. "It felt like 2016 all over again," he wrote. "It was Trump's unhinged social media feed brought to life on stage. And Collins was put in an uncomfortable position, given the town hall was conducted in front of a Republican audience that applauded Trump, giving a sense of unintended endorsement to his shameful antics."

Missouri's U.S. senators are also still endorsing Trump, who is also under indictment in New York state. Both Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt deflected a direct answer when The Star's Daniel Desrochers asked about the swift and definitive resolution to the Carroll sexual abuse and defamation case. Kansas Sen. Roger Marshall was even more evasive.

So yes, this is where we are. All these years later, Donald Trump could still shoot somebody—in the middle of Fifth Avenue, or on a New Hampshire TV stage—and still find millions of United States citizens ready and willing to vote for him.

It's going to be a long year and a half.

©2023 The Kansas City Star



## The gun lobby appears invincible. It isn't

It's easy to believe nothing has changed. It's easy to believe that nothing even can change given the grip of gun culture on the US Supreme Court and the Republican Party. Republican politicians coast to coast have put themselves wholly at the service of the gun industry and the gun fanatics who enrich it. And the Supreme Court's conservative majority has codified gun obsession with ever more tendentious opinions that shatter not only precedent and reason, but a good many human bodies, too.

Yet as we sort through last weekend's gun massacre in Texas, and await the next gun massacre elsewhere, while taking in stride the gun murders, suicides and shootings too routine to merit public attention, it's worth noting that the political landscape is far from static. The politics of gun violence are different today than they were a few years ago, both for better and for worse. It's hard to imagine, for example, any Democratic senator voting, as four did just one decade ago, against a proposal for expanded background checks. It's even harder to imagine such a vote in the wake of a massacre of children.

In essence, while gun fixation has taken over one party (and that's bad), it has been run out of the other party (and that's good). Polarization on guns has followed a track similar to polarization on other issues. But it also received a stiff shove from the National Rifle Association. Mark Pryor, then a Democratic senator from Arkansas, joined with Republicans in 2013 in opposing background checks on people who buy firearms online or at gun shows. The NRA rewarded Pryor's cravenness with a seven-figure advertising buy supporting Pryor's Republican opponent, who won. The NRA, once bipartisan, is now exclusively a GOP interest group, as are other militant gun organizations. Gun zealots have increased their power with Republicans. But they have lost allies elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the "gunsense" lobby is larger, better funded and more potent than at any time in history. It eagerly courts bipartisan allies, seeking to move Republicans incrementally when they can be moved at all. The most successful organizations lobbying for gun safety laws didn't exist in the 20th century. (One of these organizations, Everytown for Gun Safety, is backed by Michael Bloomberg, founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP.)

States including California, Connecticut, Hawaii and Washington have strengthened their gun restrictions, from red flag laws to ammunition background checks to a ban on semi-automatic rifles. And the steady accumulation of academic research on gun violence has obliterated the gun lobby's claims of social benefits flowing from widespread gun possession. A similar vein of research on the history of gun regulation would likely shame the Supreme Court if the court were capable of such reactions.

Gun violence is complicated. But our current mayhem is part-

By **FRANCIS WILKINSON**  
Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. politics and policy. Previously, he was an editor for the Week, a writer for Rolling Stone, a communications consultant and a political media strategist.



ly a result of the gun lobby getting its wish—a nation awash in guns, with red states providing virtually any violent, unhinged man with ready access to lethal arsenals. The gunman who murdered at least eight and injured seven last weekend in suburban Dallas reportedly bought guns from "private sellers." In Texas, such sellers don't need to conduct a basic background check before selling firearms to a homicidal Nazi.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott mumbled his traditional post-Texas-massacre remarks about "mental health." It's the default rhetoric of the pathetic and weak. ("We're not going to fix it" is the manly, forthright response, although that truth wasn't well received when a Republican congressman from Tennessee recently delivered it.)

The sick beauty of the gun industry's business model is that it's self-perpetuating. Gunmakers sell guns, which lead to more gun violence, which increases fear, which encourages people to buy more guns, which leads to more gun violence. If lawmakers don't intervene, you can keep that cycle spinning for a long time before you bleed out a nation of 330 million.

Yet the gun-mad dystopia promoted by gun culture remains a nightmare vision to most Americans. A recent Fox News poll of registered voters shows giant majorities for a menu of gun regulations, including a ban on "assault weapons" and a 30-day waiting period to purchase firearms. Public opinion is unstable. But what the Fox poll shows is that Americans right now prefer Canadian gun laws to Texas gun laws.

Turning that public sentiment into a mass mobilization for life is the task at hand for the gun-safety movement. It will require new levels of public awareness, and political pressure, with the goal of isolating true-believing gun radicals from the "thoughts and prayers" cynics, opportunists and frauds who only pretend to be crazy.

With every massacre, guns are becoming a more defining issue. Either the US will institutionalize fear, turning public spaces into state garrisons to counter the threat from armed and dangerous men, or the US will bolster freedom by curtailing the forces of gun violence and intimidation. Something's got to give: The status quo is increasingly untenable.



# Saving kids from backyard pools, but not loaded guns

My children had their first active shooter drill at school when they were just 6-years old. Then in first grade, with school bags bigger than they were, they piled into the back seat of my car one afternoon excited to tell me about their day.

“We learned how to hide in the bathroom, in case the bad guys come,” they said. My heart sank, knowing they had done an active shooter drill without fully understanding why they were doing it. I also realized then that we, as the adults in our children’s lives, had failed them and their generation. Their daily lives now go on with the subtle, looming danger of gun violence constantly in the background. The latest reminder came earlier this month with the shooting in Midtown Atlanta, which killed Amy St. Pierre, a 39-year-old mother who left behind two small children.

As a massive manhunt followed the Midtown attack, I started to hear from other moms whose children were in real-life lockdowns in their schools. Sports practices in the area were canceled “out of an abundance of caution.” Children, naturally, were terrified. Another mass shooting followed days later at an outlet mall in Allen, Texas, killing eight people, including three small children who were shopping with their families.

A witness who was the first to respond described an “unfathomable” scene, including a little girl he found crouched in a praying position. After trying to find a pulse, he said he realized in horror, “She had no face.” Another little boy was alive, but his mother had died shielding him from bullets. The little boy was soaked in his mother’s blood.

Parents I talk to want to know not why the shootings are happening, but why so little is being done to stop them, especially here in Georgia, where gun violence is happening in all parts of the state.

The easiest, but incomplete answer, is politics, and more specifically, the politics of guns. And if you want to see the power of the gun lobby in the state, the Georgia Capitol is the place to look.

The National Rifle Association is hardly a player there anymore, after years of scandal and far-right activists pushing for more aggressive action. In its place, some GOP lawmakers will privately tell you, are smaller, more militant groups that threaten not just lawmakers’ seats in the General Assembly, but more subtly and perniciously, their personal safety, too.

The results were plain to see in the Legislature earlier this year, where two bills with the same goal of preventing Georgia children’s deaths, had two very different outcomes.

The first was “Izzy’s Law,” a bill that state Sen. Max Burns, R-Sylvania, introduced shortly after a 4-year-old boy in Augusta tragically died during a private swim lesson in a backyard pool. Democrats and Republicans from the Augusta area all got behind the legislation, which will require new safety measures for all private swim lessons.

“The best thing I can tell you is, this will protect Georgia’s children,” Burns said on the Senate floor. The bill passed both chambers in less than 30 days and Gov. Brian Kemp signed it into law with Izzy’s mother looking on.

By **PATRICIA MURPHY**  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



Compare that to the Pediatric Health Safe Storage Act from state Rep. Michelle Au, a bill that would make it a crime to have a loaded weapon accessible to minors without parental supervision. The Johns Creek Democrat told me she designed her bill as a public health measure since she said gunshot wounds are the leading cause of death for Georgia children.

The Au bill got something rare for a gun-safety measure—a subcommittee hearing, this one scheduled by the Republican Committee Chairman J. Powell. But the hearing came after Crossover Day, meaning the bill would not be considered this year, and it ended with this warning from Alex Dorr, a representative for Georgia Gun Owners:

“Georgia Gun Owners will be sure to expose anyone who supports this bill, and that goes doubly true for any Republicans who betray us,” Dorr said. “But I’m very hopeful that that’s not the case here today.”

The only person with enough power to move any kind of gun safety measure in the state is Gov. Kemp, now in his second term with a huge November win behind him. But while Kemp has hardly been the gun-toting character from his 2018 campaign commercial, he has delivered for gun lobbyists and their members in nearly every way possible.

The biggest win was the bill to eliminate the requirement for licenses to carry concealed weapons. Kemp signed it in 2022 with a flourish in front of a Douglasville gun store, with the first lady and two of his three daughters beside him.

Another win came earlier this year, when he signed a school safety bill. The new law does not restrict any of the guns used in mass shootings. Instead, it requires “intruder alert drills” in all public schools, including elementary schools, among other measures.

Au said she’s not planning to change her safe storage bill to improve its chance of passage next year. “It’s not the bill that has to change, it’s the culture that has to change,” she said.

The culture she’s working with now includes several Republican colleagues who tell her, “I know it’s a good bill, but I just can’t do it in this environment.”

That “environment” at the state Capitol is leaving mentally ill Georgians on the streets by blocking legislation to expand mental health treatment in Georgia, as the state Senate did this year.

And it’s listening more to gun lobbyists warning about “the tyranny of the government” than to children afraid of the bad guys, and their parents who feel lucky to get them home, safe and sound.

Living in that kind of fear every day is a tyranny all its own, but it’s the reality here in Georgia for as far as the eye can see.

# ‘Unfortunately or fortunately,’ jury believed E. Jean Carroll and did not believe Trump

By **MELINDA HENNEBERGER**  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

They believed her. A jury of ordinary New Yorkers, including a janitor, an employee of a high school, a public library and a health care facility, believed that E. Jean Carroll was sexually abused by Donald Trump in a Bergdorf Goodman dressing room in the spring of 1996.

The panel, which deliberated for less than three hours, did not believe the former president’s defense, which was he has “absolutely no idea” who Carroll is, and what’s more does not find her attractive enough to rape, though “unfortunately or fortunately,” powerful men have been grabbing women’s genitals at full tilt for a million or so years.

Maybe Trump won’t pay Carroll the \$5 million he now owes her in damages, which since he’s rarely paid his bills in the past would surprise no one.

Maybe he’ll prevail on appeal. Maybe those who love the former president beyond reason will support him even more passionately that he’s now been found liable in a civil sexual misconduct suit brought by one of the more than two dozen women who have similarly accused him.

But whatever happens tomorrow, what happened today is

that Donald Trump has finally been held accountable for his behavior with women.

Whatever happens, a jury did not believe that derisively labeling a case as a “he said, she said” contest means that the truth simply cannot be learned. On the contrary, it almost always can.

What happened today is that a man who has said that stars can grab and go at will was held accountable, because jurors saw through the ancient argument that women who are raped typically scream, kick and run straight to the police station. On the contrary, they very rarely do.

What happened today may make defense attorneys rethink the wisdom of defending their clients by arguing that accusers aren’t to be believed unless they behaved in ways almost no victim actually does.

And what happened today is that even though the #MeToo movement didn’t force as much change as we’d hoped, the fact that one of the most powerful men in the world was just found liable for his actions 30 years ago is not nothing, either.

“Today, the world finally knows the truth,” Carroll said in a statement. “This victory is not just for me but for every woman who has suffered because she was not believed.” That is a lot of women.

As Republican presidential candidate Asa Hutchinson, the former governor of Arkansas, said, this verdict shows “another example of the indefensible behavior of Donald Trump.”

# Secular Prayers for Mother’s Day

**LITERARY NOOK**  
By **JOEY CONNOLLY**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

*Editor’s Note: The following was submitted by the author on May 7, 2023. It is being published a day after Mother’s Day as we inadvertently placed this in the wrong folder for publication. We apologize.*

## Our Mother Who is In Heaven

Our mother who is up in heaven above  
honored be thy name and family with you  
your children here on earth send all their love  
thank you for all your work giving birth too.

Give us this day your mother’s delicious old recipes  
for scalloped potatoes and Boston baked beans  
cottage pudding cake, ham and black eyed peas  
that homemade cocoa we drank through our teens.

Forgive me mother for not helping you more  
and spending my allowance at the candy store  
thus I avoided the smallest household chore  
complaining that washing the dishes was a bore.

I hope to see you in heaven if I ever get there  
until then dearest Mother know that I care.

## Hail Mother Who Sang Amazing Grace

All hail my mother who sang Amazing Grace  
and many other fun songs out in our back yard  
some old Christmas carols by our stone fireplace  
teaching us to make our own Christmas card.

Jolly mother putting up with three naughty boys  
two angelic daughters and her two adoring cats  
their bird and rabbit tributes brought old age joys  
and for seventeen years her house was free of rats.

To mothers everywhere from Grandma back to teen  
with childhood memories of our ‘guardians dear’  
all the prayers and songs you taught us in between  
your love and purpose Mothers always perfectly clear.

Hail to all our mothers with dignity and grace  
this prayer is for you across all cyber space.

## Glory be to Thee Dear Mothers

Glory be to thee dear mothers with difficult births  
mine with three boys and then two daughters  
father said a novena which he considered worth  
the life of us all, Cesarean without broken waters  
now and ever shall be great mothers to the end  
and the same to their loving children and men.

A personal note: My mother was of Irish ancestry born in 1919 and passed away peacefully at age 92. She had all her mental faculties and I spoke with her on the phone the night before she died. She was jovial and planning a birthday party for my youngest sister. She graduated from Nazareth College, Rochester, NY at age 20 in 1939. She had 5 Cesareans sections assisted by a Chinese physician. She was loved by all who knew her. She related well with her teen children and their friends in the turbulent 1960s. She danced and rocked and sang with all her children. I miss her dearly.

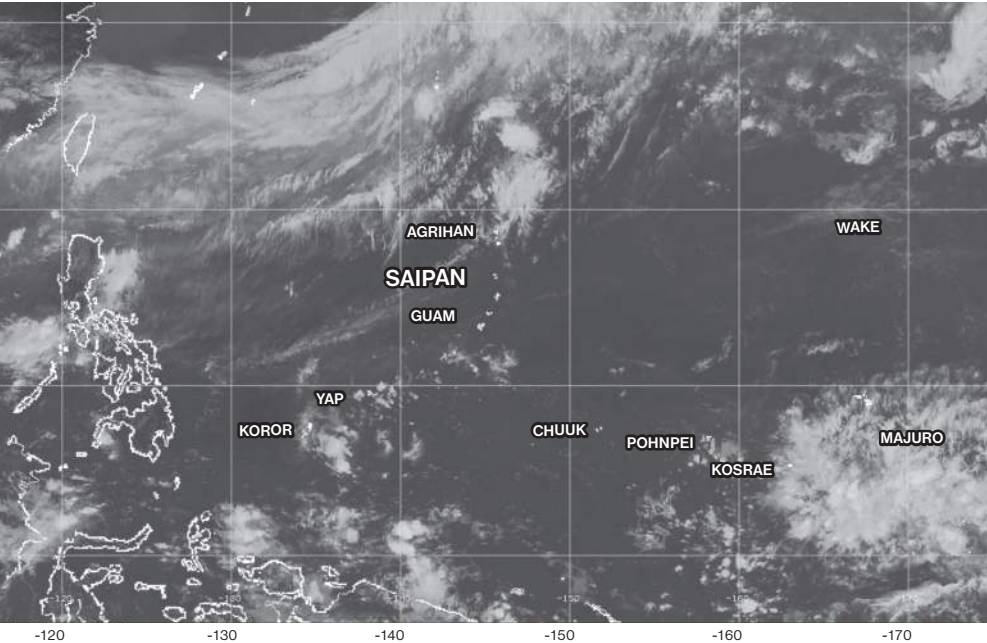
His followers will of course see it instead as another example of how uniquely persecuted poor Donald Trump really is. And they insist on thinking that this suit is all about him—getting him, pursuing him, blaming him—though no, this could be anybody, right or left, rich or poor, clever or insipid.

It’s not really about either him or E. Jean Carroll, who did this for all women. And if we aren’t all grateful to her, I am.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 8:08 AM, MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A quiet weather pattern remains in place across the region, with a few showers moving through the region, especially near Guam. The morning observations shows seas of 3 to 5 feet, with a water temperature of 85 degrees at Ipan and 84 degrees at Ritidian.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	89° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:08 AM	3:33 PM	-
Wednesday	3:47 AM	4:27 PM	-
Thursday	4:27 AM	5:22 PM	-
Friday	5:09 AM	6:18 PM	-
Saturday	5:54 AM	7:15 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 54°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	97° / 67°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 77°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	81° / 70°
London	Mostly Sunny	64° / 47°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	75° / 58°
Manila	Thunderstorms	92° / 82°
Melbourne	Rain	55° / 43°
Miami	Isolated Thunderstorms	83° / 74°
New York	Sunny	77° / 59°
Osaka	Sunny	79° / 62°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	62° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 60°
Rome	Rain	65° / 57°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 67°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	65° / 53°
Seoul	Sunny	86° / 59°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	78° / 60°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	77° / 58°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:03 AM	High Tide	2.10
11:45 AM	Low Tide	0.54
5:41 PM	High Tide	1.77
11:28 PM	Low Tide	0.76

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily		
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun		
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA					
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily		
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily		
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily		
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily		
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily		
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily		
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily		

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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# Business

## GRMC celebrates patient's 100th birthday

**DEDEDO, Guam**—Guam Regional Medical City celebrated the 100th birthday of patient and Dededo resident, Magdalena Taitano Perez Fausto on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, on the fifth floor lobby. The event was attended by Magdalena's family members and several GRMC staff including nurses, executive team, and the morale team.

GRMC chief nursing officer Jennifer Cruz says, "We would like to wish Mrs. Magdalena Fausto a happy birthday as she celebrates 100 years around the sun. She has accomplished so much in her life and is an inspiration to many. It was an honor and a privilege to care for such a beautiful person. Cheers to good health and many more birthdays to come."

In preparation for the celebration, Magdalena's daughter, Eleanor Fausto Guzman, coordinated with GRMC staff to decorate the lobby. Upon her bed being brought out to the lobby, Magdalena was accessorized with a birthday tiara and a forever *mwar mwar* by Håfa Leis. She was presented with a birthday cake and a gift by the GRMC staff.

Pastries, coffee, and other refreshments were served to guests who attended. During the celebration, GRMC pres-

ident and CEO Alan Funtanilla shared to the guests,

"This is a very special day for Ms. Magdalena and for her

family who are visiting here from Texas and California.

We want to wish Ms. Magdalena a fun-filled day with lots



Guam Regional Medical City staff celebrate patient Magdalena Fausto's 100th Birthday on April 25, 2023 at the GRMC 5th floor lobby. Photographed left to right: Bernie Lobaton (GRMC vice president of Support Services), Mary Broussard (daughter of Magdalena), Edwin Broussard (grandson of Magdalena), Eleanor Guzman (daughter of Magdalena), Magdalena Fausto, Eric Plinske (GRMC vice president of Marketing & Business Development), Chalorna Lauron (GRMC Marketing & Communications manager), Connie Toves (daughter of Magdalena), Ryan Toves (grandson of Magdalena), Alan Funtanilla (GRMC president and CEO), Jennifer Cruz (GRMC SVP and chief nursing officer), Cypriana Aniagyei (Med-Telemetry unit manager), and Janica Alcantara (unit secretary).

GRMC

of love, lots of smiles, lots of sunshine, and God's blessings, which is what I'm sure is exactly what [Magdalena] gave in the 100 years that she lived." The celebration was a joyous union for Magdalena, her children, and other family members.

In her lifetime, Magdalena was a cook for the NAS Child Care Center for 35 years. Additionally, she was a homemaker, teacher's assistant, St. Dominic's Senior Care Center volunteer, and an active participant of the Dededo Senior Citizen Center.

Magdalena was an active church member at the Santa Barbara Catholic Church in Dededo. She was also a member of the Christian Mothers Society, Kantoran Chatanmat Choir, Ladies Altar Society and Our Lady of Fatima group.

Magdalena shared 58 years of marriage with her late husband, Jose F. Fausto, and had 14 children: Sabino †, Daniel †, Anthony †, Joseph†, Teresita†, Mary, Larry, Doris, Greg, Brennan, Eleanor, Kenneth, Carolyn, and Connie. She has 25 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great grandchildren, and 10 great-great-great grandchildren.

On Wednesday, April 26, Magdalena was discharged from GRMC and was able to return to her Dededo home. **(PR)**

## TSA tests facial recognition technology to boost airport security

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—A passenger walks up to an airport security checkpoint, slips an ID card into a slot and looks into a camera atop a small screen. The screen flashes "Photo Complete" and the person walks through — all without having to hand over their identification to the TSA officer sitting behind the screen.

It's all part of a pilot project by the Transportation Security Administration to assess the use of facial recognition technology at a number of airports across the country.

"What we are trying to do with this is aid the officers to actually determine that you are who you say who you are," said Jason Lim, identity management capabilities manager, during a demonstration of the technology to reporters at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

The effort comes at a time when the use of various forms of technology to enhance security and streamline procedures is only increasing. TSA says the pilot is voluntary

and accurate, but critics have raised concerns about questions of bias in facial recognition technology and possible repercussions for passengers who want to opt out.

The technology is currently in 16 airports. In addition to Baltimore, it's being used at Reagan National near Washington, D.C., airports in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Jose, and Gulfport-Biloxi and Jackson in Mississippi. However, it's not at every TSA checkpoint so not every traveler going through those airports would necessarily experience it.

Travelers put their driver's license into a slot that reads the card or place their passport photo against a card reader. Then they look at a camera on a screen about the size of an iPad, which captures their image and compares it to their ID. The technology is both checking to make sure the people at the airport match the ID they present and that the identification is in fact real. A TSA

officer is still there and signs off on the screening.

A small sign alerts travelers that their photo will be taken as part of the pilot and that they can opt out if they'd like. It also includes a QR code for them to get more information.

Since it's come out the pilot has come under scrutiny by some elected officials and privacy advocates. In a February letter to TSA, five senators — four Democrats and an Independent who is part of the Democratic caucus — demanded the agency stop the program, saying: "Increasing biometric surveillance of Americans by the government represents a risk to civil liberties and privacy rights."

As various forms of technology that use biometric information like face IDs, retina scans or fingerprint matches have become more pervasive in both the private sector and the federal government, it's raised concerns among privacy advocates about how this data is collected, who has access to it and what happens if it gets hacked.

## AI presents political peril for 2024 with threat to mislead voters

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Computer engineers and tech-inclined political scientists have warned for years that cheap, powerful artificial intelligence tools would soon allow anyone to create fake images, video and audio that was realistic enough to fool voters and perhaps sway an election.

The synthetic images that emerged were often crude, unconvincing and costly to produce, especially when other kinds of misinformation were so inexpensive and easy to spread on social media. The threat posed by AI and so-called deepfakes always seemed a year or two away.

No more.

Sophisticated generative AI tools can now create cloned human voices and hyper-realistic images, videos and audio in seconds, at minimal cost. When strapped to powerful social media algorithms, this fake and digitally created content can spread far and fast and target highly specific audiences, potentially taking campaign dirty tricks to a new low.

The implications for the 2024 campaigns and elections are as large as they are troubling:

Generative AI can not only rapidly produce targeted campaign emails, texts or videos, it also could be used to mislead voters, impersonate candidates and undermine elections on a scale and at a speed not yet seen.

"We're not prepared for this," warned A.J. Nash, vice president of intelligence at the cybersecurity firm ZeroFox. "To me, the big leap forward is the audio and video capabilities that have emerged. When you can do that on a large scale, and distribute it on social platforms, well, it's going to have a major impact."

AI experts can quickly rattle off a number of alarming scenarios in which generative AI is used to create synthetic media for the purposes of confusing voters, slandering a candidate or even inciting violence.

Here are a few: Automated robocall messages, in a candidate's voice, instructing voters to cast ballots on the wrong date; audio recordings of a candidate supposedly confessing to a crime or expressing racist views; video footage showing someone giving a speech or interview they never gave. Fake images designed to look like local news reports, falsely

claiming a candidate dropped out of the race.

"What if Elon Musk personally calls you and tells you to vote for a certain candidate?" said Oren Etzioni, the founding CEO of the Allen Institute for AI, who stepped down last year to start the nonprofit AI2. "A lot of people would listen. But it's not him."

Former President Donald Trump, who is running in 2024, has shared AI-generated content with his followers on social media. A manipulated video of CNN host Anderson Cooper that Trump shared on his Truth Social platform on Friday, which distorted Cooper's reaction to the CNN town hall this past week with Trump, was created using an AI voice-cloning tool.

A dystopian campaign ad released last month by the Republican National Committee offers another glimpse of this digitally manipulated future. The online ad, which came after President Joe Biden announced his reelection campaign, and starts with a strange, slightly warped image of Biden and the text "What if the weakest president we've ever had was re-elected?"



# Nation

## Biden, India's Modi out to deepen their bonds

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Joe Biden has made it a mission for the U.S. to build friendships overseas—and the next few weeks will offer a vivid demonstration of the importance he's placing on a relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

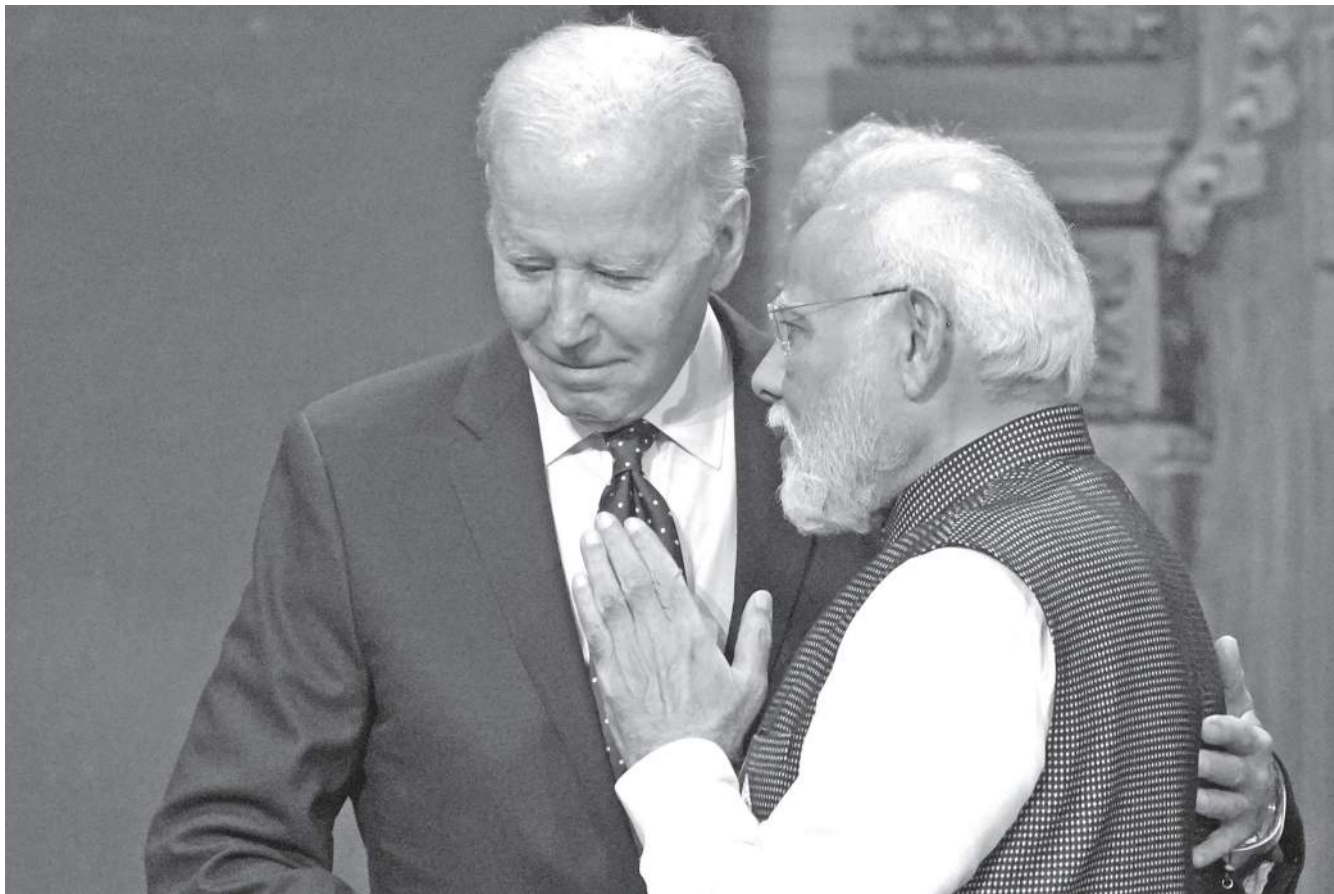
The two are both scheduled to attend this week's Group of Seven summit in Japan, a subsequent gathering of Pacific island leaders in Papua New Guinea, and a later meet-

### » But geopolitical friendships have their limits

ing of Indo-Pacific leaders in Australia. Those travels will be followed by a June 22 state visit by Modi to Washington, a sign that both seem willing to deepen their bonds.

But like many geopolitical friendships, things are complicated between the world's largest economy (the U.S.) and its most populous nation (India).

The personal outreach has a clear strategic calculus as both countries respond to China's economic rise and increased global prominence. Yet while Biden champions democratic ideals and openly opposes Russia for invading Ukraine, Modi has offered tepid criti-



U.S. President Joe Biden, left, and India Prime Minister Narendra Modi talk during the G20 leaders summit in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, Nov. 15, 2022.

cism of Russia and opponents say he is eroding India's democratic traditions.

That means the future of the alliance depends on a degree of patience.

"It's a long game of steady forward movement in defense relations and some fairly rapid

intensification of business ties — with the pace of both determined by the speed of movement on the Indian side," said Kurt Tong, a former ambassador for the U.S. who is now managing partner of The Asia Group, a consultancy.

Biden last year publicly

called India's response to the war in Ukraine "shaky." India abstained from voting on U.N. resolutions condemning Russia and refused to join the global coalition against Russia. Modi had a relatively warm relationship with Biden's predecessor, Donald

Trump, and has made some efforts to forge a connection with Biden, who is known to focus on his Irish roots even when meeting with leaders of other nations.

When Modi came to Washington in September 2021, he brought with him documents

about people with the last name "Biden" in India.

"Are we related?" Biden asked.

"Yes," Modi joked.

While visiting Canada in March, Biden said he's made it a strategic goal to improve relations with the rest of the world as he feels that America's leverage against China and Russia is through its alliances.

"I have now met with 80% of the world leaders just since I've been president," he said. "We're the ones expanding the alliances. The opposition is not."

Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a biographer of Modi, said the Indian leader's connection with Biden is not personal—and has its limits. But it is necessary for the U.S. to keep India on its side as tensions with China have accelerated over Taiwan, the federal government's ban on exporting advanced computer chips to China and human rights issues.

"To what extent can India be part of the U.S.-led alliance, that is for Modi to decide," Mukhopadhyay said. "At some point or the other, the Americans would realize that Modi is not really going the whole hog as much as they would like India to be. But Modi will not get swayed by meeting Biden several times."

## Proposal would let conservationists lease public land much as drillers, ranchers do

**BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)**—The Biden administration wants to put conserving vast government-owned lands on equal footing with oil drilling, livestock grazing and other interests, according to a top administration official who defended the idea against criticism that it would interfere with industry.

The proposal would allow conservationists and others to lease federally owned land to restore it, much the same way oil companies buy leases to drill and ranchers pay to graze cattle. Companies could also buy conservation leases, such as oil drillers who want to offset damage to public land by restoring acreage elsewhere.

Tracy Stone-Manning, director of the Bureau of Land Management, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the proposed changes would address rising pressure from climate change and development. While the bureau previously

issued leases for conservation in limited cases, it has never had a dedicated program for it, she said.

"It makes conservation an equal among the multiple uses that we manage for," Stone-Manning said. "There are rules around how we do solar development. There are rules around how we do oil and gas. There have not been rules around how we deliver on the portions of (federal law) that say, 'Manage for fish and wildlife habitat, manage for clean water.'"

The pending rule also would promote establishing more areas of "critical environmental concern" due to their historic or cultural significance, or their importance for wildlife conservation. More than 1,000 such sites covering about 33,000 square miles (85,000 square kilometers) have been designated previously.

By comparison, about 242,000 square miles of bureau land are open to graz-

ing livestock.

But more than a century after the U.S. started selling oil and gas leases, the conservation idea is stirring debate over the best use of vast government-owned property, primarily in the West.

Opponents including Republican lawmakers are blasting it as a backdoor way to exclude mining, energy development and agriculture from land controlled by the BLM.

The bureau has a history of industry-friendly policies for the 380,000 square miles (990,000 square kilometers) it oversees, an area more than twice the size of California. It also regulates publicly owned underground minerals, including oil, coal and lithium for renewable energy across more than 1 million square miles.

Those holdings put the 10,000-person agency at the center of arguments over how much development should be allowed.

## Border crossings off from last week's highs

**TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)**—Pandemic-era limits on asylum known as Title 42 have been rarely discussed among many of tens of thousands of migrants massed on Mexico's border with the United States.

Their eyes were—and are—fixed instead on a new U.S. government mobile app that grants 1,000 people daily an appointment to cross the border and seek asylum while living in the U.S. With demand far outstripping available slots, the app has been an exercise in frustration for many—and a test of the Biden administration's strategy of coupling new legal paths to entry with severe consequences for those who don't follow them.

"You start to give up hope but it's the only way," said Teresa Muñoz, 48, who abandoned her home in the Mexican state of Michoacan after a gang killed her husband and beat her. She has been trying for a month to gain entry through the app, called CB-POne, while staying in a Tijuana shelter with her two children and 2-year-old grandson.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas

said the Border Patrol made 6,300 arrests on Friday — the first day after the Title 42 restrictions expired — and 4,200 Saturday. That's sharply below the 10,000-plus on three days last week as migrants rushed to get in before new policies to restrict asylum took effect.

"It is still early," Mayorkas said Sunday on CNN's 'State of the Union.' "We are in day three, but we have been planning for this transition for months and months. And we have been executing on our plan. And we will continue to do so."

Despite the drop in recent days, authorities predict arrests will spike to between 12,000 and 14,000 a day, Matthew Hudak, deputy Border Patrol chief, said in a court filing Friday. And authorities cannot confidently estimate how many will cross, Hudak said, noting intelligence reports failed to quickly flag a "singular surge" of 18,000 predominantly Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Texas, in September 2021.

More than 27,000 migrants were in custody along the border one day last week, a num-

ber that may top 45,000 by the end of May if authorities can't release migrants without orders to appear in immigration court, Hudak said.

The administration plans to ask an appeals court Monday for permission to release migrants without orders to appear in court. Authorities say it takes between 90 minutes and two hours to process a single adult for court — potentially choking Border Patrol holding facilities — and longer to process families. By contrast, it takes only 20 minutes to release someone with instructions to report to an immigration office in 60 days, a common practice since 2021 to ease overcrowding along the border.

The Justice Department even raised the possibility of declining to take people into custody if it can't quickly release migrants, calling that a "worst-case scenario."

President Joe Biden, spending the weekend at his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, said his hope was that the border numbers would "continue to go down" but that "we have a lot more work to do."



# Asia

## Mocha makes landfall in Myanmar

» Tears off roofs, kills at least 3

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—Thousands of people hunkered down Sunday in monasteries, pagodas and schools, seeking shelter from a powerful storm that slammed into the coast of Myanmar, tearing roofs off buildings and killing at least three people.

Cyclone Mocha made landfall Sunday afternoon in Myanmar's Rakhine state near Sittwe township with winds of up to 209 kilometers (130 miles) per hour, Myanmar's Meteorological Department said. The storm previously passed over Bangladesh's Saint Martin's Island, causing damage and injuries, but turned away from the country's shores before landfall.

As night fell, the extent of the damage in Sittwe was not clear. Earlier in the day, high winds crumpled cell phone towers, cutting off communications in much of the area.

In videos collected by local media before communications were cut off, deep water races through streets while wind lashes trees and pulls boards off roofs.

Rakhine-based media reported that streets were flooded, trapping people in low-lying areas in their homes as worried relatives outside the township appealed for rescue.

Myanmar's military information office said the storm had damaged houses, electrical transformers, cell phone towers, boats and lampposts in Sittwe, Kyaukpyu, and Gwa townships. It said the storm also tore roofs off of sport buildings on the Coco Islands, about 425 kilometers (264 miles) southwest of the country's largest city, Yangon.

More than 4,000 of Sittwe's

300,000 residents were evacuated to other cities and more than 20,000 people were sheltering in sturdy buildings such as monasteries, pagodas and schools located on the city's highlands, said Tin Nyein Oo, who is volunteering in shelters in Sittwe.

Lin Lin, the chairman of a local charitable foundation, said there was not enough food in the shelters in Sittwe after more people arrived than expected.

Titon Mitra, the U.N. Development Program representative in Myanmar, tweeted: "Mocha has made landfall. 2m people at risk. Damage and losses are expected to be extensive. We are ready to respond and will need unhindered access to all affected communities."

Myanmar state television reported that the military government is preparing to send food, medicine and medical personnel to the storm-hit area. After battering Rakhine, the cyclone weakened and was forecast to hit the northwestern state of Chin and the central regions on Monday.

On Sunday morning, several deaths caused by wind and rain were reported in Myanmar.

A rescue team from the country's eastern Shan state announced on its Facebook social media page that they had recovered the bodies of a couple who were buried when a landslide caused by heavy rain hit their house in Tachileik township. Local media reported that a man was crushed to death when a banyan tree fell on him in Pyin Oo Lwin township in the central Mandalay region.

Authorities in the Bangladeshi city of Cox's Bazar, which lay in the storm's pre-

dicted path, said earlier that they had evacuated hundreds of thousands of people, but by early afternoon it appeared that the storm would mostly miss the country as it veered east, said Azizur Rahman, director of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department in Dhaka.

"The level of risk has reduced to a great extent in our Bangladesh," he told reporters.

Strong winds accompanied by rains continued in the Saint Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal in the afternoon, but feared tidal surges did not take place because the cyclone started crossing Bangladesh coast at low tide, Dhaka-based Jamuna TV station reported.

About a dozen islanders were injured, while some 300 homes were either destroyed or damaged, leading Bengali-language daily Prothom Alo reported. One woman was critically wounded, it said.

U.N. agencies and aid workers in Bangladesh had prepositioned tons of dry food and dozens of ambulances with mobile medical teams in sprawling refugee camps that house more than 1 million members of the Rohingya Muslim ethnic minority who fled persecution in Myanmar.

In May 2008, Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar with a storm surge that devastated populated areas around the Irrawaddy River Delta. At least 138,000 people died and tens of thousands of homes and other buildings were washed away.

Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune city, said cyclones in the Bay of Bengal are becoming more intense more quickly, in part because of climate change.

## China's Ukraine envoy due to start Europe trip

**BEIJING (AP)**—A Chinese envoy was preparing Monday to visit Ukraine and Russia, but there appeared to be little chance of a breakthrough to end the 15-month-long invasion.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government says it is neutral and wants to play a role as mediator, but has given Moscow political support. Beijing released a proposed peace plan in February, but that was largely dismissed by Ukraine's allies, who insist Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces must withdraw.

Li Hui, a former ambassador to Moscow, also will visit Poland, France and Germany, according to the foreign ministry. It gave no other schedule details.

Political analysts see little

hope for a peace agreement because neither Ukraine nor Russia is ready to stop fighting. They say by sending an envoy, China appears to be trying to neutralize criticism of its friendship with Putin and to split European allies away from Washington.

Xi spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy by phone in April, setting the stage for the diplomatic push.

The trip "expresses China's commitment to promoting peace and negotiations," foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Friday. Wang said China wishes to prevent an "escalation of the situation."

Beijing previously avoided involvement in conflicts between other countries but ap-

pears to be asserting itself as a global diplomatic force after arranging talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran in March that led them to restore diplomatic relations following a seven-year break.

China has friendly relations with Moscow as well as economic leverage as the biggest buyer of Russian oil and gas after the United States and its allies cut off most purchases.

Xi's government sees Moscow as a diplomatic partner in opposing U.S. domination of global affairs. Beijing has refused to criticize the February 2022 invasion and used its status as one of five permanent United Nations Security Council members to deflect diplomatic attacks on Russia.

# World

## Zelenskyy to visit Britain next on European tour seeking military aid



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy walks past Republican Guards as he arrives at the Elysee palace in Paris, Sunday, May 14, 2023. AP

**PARIS (AP)**—President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will visit Britain on Monday, as the staunch ally of Ukraine prepares to give more military aid in an effort to change the course of the war.

It will be the fourth European country Zelenskyy has visited in the past few days. He made an unannounced visit to Paris on Sunday evening to meet French President Emmanuel Macron, after trips to Germany and Italy, where he met those countries' leaders and Pope Francis.

A message posted Monday on Zelenskyy's official Telegram Channel said: "Today — London. The UK is leading the way when it comes to

expanding our capabilities on the ground and in the air. This cooperation will continue today. I will meet my friend Rishi. We will conduct substantive negotiations face-to-face and in delegations."

Sunak's office confirmed the two leaders would meet at Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat outside London.

The U.K. has become one of Ukraine's major military allies. Last week Britain announced it was sending Ukraine Storm Shadow cruise missiles, which have a range of more than 250 kilometers (150 miles) — the first known shipment of the weaponry that Kyiv has long

sought from its allies.

Zelenskyy toured European capitals over the weekend to seek more aid as Ukraine prepares a long-anticipated spring offensive to retake territory seized by Russia.

Zelenskyy and Macron met for about three hours at the French presidential Elysee Palace — an encounter kept under wraps until shortly before the Ukrainian leader's arrival in Paris.

Macron's office said France will supply dozens of light tanks and armored vehicles "in the weeks ahead," without giving specific numbers. Also promised were more air defense systems, but again details weren't made public.

## Turkey seen headed to a runoff presidential race

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)**—Turkey's presidential elections appeared to be heading toward a second-round runoff on Monday, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has ruled his country with a firm grip for 20 years, leading over his chief challenger, but falling short of the votes needed for an outright win.

With votes of Turkish citizens living abroad still being counted, results from the state-run Anadolu news agency showed Erdogan had 49.3% of the votes, with his main rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu garnering 45%.

Erdogan, 69, told supporters in the early hours of Monday that he could still win. He said, however, that he would respect the nation's decision if the race went to a runoff on May 28.

The vote was being closely watched to see if the strategically located NATO country — which has a coast on the Black Sea to the north, and neighbors Iran, Iraq and Syr-

ia to the south — remains under the control of the increasingly authoritarian president or can embark on a more democratic course that was envisioned by Kilicdaroglu.

Opinion polls in the runup to Sunday's vote had given Kilicdaroglu, the joint candidate of a six-party opposition alliance, a slight lead over Erdogan, who has governed Turkey as either prime minister or president since 2003.

Kilicdaroglu sounded hopeful for a second-round victory.

"We will absolutely win the second round ... and bring democracy" said Kilicdaroglu, 74, maintaining that Erdogan had lost the trust of a nation now demanding change.

This year's election came amid a backdrop of economic turmoil, a cost-of-living crisis and a February earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people. Western nations and foreign investors are also awaiting the outcome because of Erdogan's

unorthodox leadership of the economy and often mercurial but successful efforts to put Turkey at the center of international negotiations.

As in previous years, Erdogan led a highly divisive campaign in his bid to stretch his rule into a third decade. He portrayed Kilicdaroglu, who had received the backing of the country's pro-Kurdish party, of colluding with "terrorists" and of supporting what he called "deviant" LGBTQ rights. In a bid to woo voters hit hard by inflation, he increased wages and pensions and subsidized electricity and gas bills, while showcasing Turkey's homegrown defense industry and infrastructure projects.

Kilicdaroglu, for his part, campaigned on promises to reverse crackdowns on free speech and other forms of democratic backsliding, as well as to repair an economy battered by high inflation and currency devaluation.



Overdrive

By MARC D. GRASSO  
BOSTON HERALD

Kia delivered outstanding vehicles in 2022, and this year looks to be no different. Their flagship Telluride delivers a huge bang for the buck and gets even better with additional models and availability.

Our week-long tester was a 2023 Kia Telluride SX-Prestige X-Pro AWD. That's a whole lot of letters in that name, but it's a vehicle I think you will come to enjoy. Back in January 2022, we experienced the Telluride SX-Prestige, which gained a lot of traction with readers of this column. With the X-Pro additions in 2023, reviewing this was a must.

In a word, the X-Pro is awesome! Additions to last year's test model don't include powertrain adjustments, yet we note 18-inch black wheels, all-terrain tires, exterior color offset styling, increased towing capacity, self-leveling rear suspension and tow-mode. These features, in addition to a 110V inverter outlet, make the Telluride perfect for weekend camping trips.

The Telluride X-Pro package adds 500 pounds of towing making it a total of 5,500 pounds. Similar to Honda's Passport TrailSport, the Telluride X-Pro has a beefier look, but one that has a lot of appeal. Adding the X-Pro features to the already great Telluride just makes this vehicle that much more appealing. Telluride is a chart-topper in the 7-passenger SUV category and in Grasso's Garage as well..

Wrapped in Midnight Lake Blue and with a Terracotta in-

2023 Kia Telluride still *tops* the charts



MARC GRASSO/THE BOSTON HERALD/TNS

The 2023 Kia Telluride includes 18-inch black wheels, all-terrain tires, exterior color offset styling, and increased towing capacity.



NUTS & BOLTS

2023 Kia Telluride SX-Prestige X-Pro AWD

- MSRP: \$52,785
- MPG: 18 city / 24 highway / 22.2 As Tested
- As Tested: \$55,120

terior, our tester was flawless. It had second-row captain's seats, great storage space, and an easy-to-use 12.3-inch infotainment screen. Next to Stelantis with its UConnect system, Kia certainly has figured out usability for infotainment.

I have been a longstanding fan of the Kia Telluride; I have recommended to families, as it really fits most situations.

Good for the life of the car?

**Q** : I have a 2006 RAV4, four-wheel-drive with 125,000 miles, in excellent condition. It doesn't have a dipstick for the transmission so it's a sealed system. Is the fluid good for the lifetime of the car? Of course, what is the lifetime since I've had Toyotas go over 225,000 miles? Or should I have the transmission fluid changed? It's kinda pricey at \$500-plus.

R.P., Phoenix

**A:** Toyota believes the transmission will last the life of the vehicle, which is often 200,000 or more as you have found out. The only time you may need new ATF (automatic transmission fluid) is if there is a failure. Not likely. I have even seen cars with regular transmission fluids go that far without changing the fluid.

**Q:** After discovering an unfortunate flat the other day, I refilled the tire and bought a can of spray-in leak repair. My mechanic flipped saying that stuff ruins your tire's pressure gauge monitor. Am I lucky that I didn't use it?

K.T., Highland Park, Illinois

**A:** Every can of tire inflator should say on the product that it is safe for tire pressure monitoring devices. If it doesn't, the stuff is probably so old it should be tossed out.

**Q:** If you own an all-electric car like a Tesla and you are in an accident and need "jaws of life," is there an area on the car where the tool should not be used? Are first responders

and firemen being trained for any concerns?

J.S., Chicago

**A:** Training is readily available from auto manufacturers as well as several fire professionals' organizations. Number one on the list is to avoid cables with orange insulation. Since this is beyond my area of expertise, I defer to the brave people who save lives for a living.

**Q:** It seems with all the trucks being sold and the reduced number of sedans being sold, the EPA required mileage standards cannot be met. Is the standard a soft "suggested" target now, while we hope that the auto companies can meet the 2026 standard? How do electric vehicles fit into this 2026 standard? Do the cold winters in Minnesota and other northern states with associated reduced vehicle mpg get considered in this standard?

T.K., New Brighton Minnesota

**A:** Your hunch is right, more new trucks than cars are being sold. (Crossover small utility vehicles had not been counted as trucks in the past.) Corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards are set by the government and measured with EPA standardized tests. Comparing electric vehicles to internal combustion engines is apples to oranges. In cold northern states, your fuel economy may suffer, but the official EPA city/highway figures are still from the standardized test.

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER  
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

**Q:** I own a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 with a 6.6-liter gas engine. Bought this beautiful beast to tow a fifth-wheel RV and the truck has done that many times. I love the truck but am having an issue with the brake hydro booster dripping fluid. This is after having the hydro booster replaced twice. My longtime mechanic has perused the internet and talked to GM repair staff but so far nothing has come up to explain this expensive, seemingly endless repair. Hoping you can.

J.B., Hebron, Illinois

**A:** Chances are, there is a worn seal inside the booster unit. Although some mechanics will go through the trouble to replace the seal, most will opt for a remanufactured unit. Sometimes it helps to pump the brake pedal four or five times before starting the engine. Not sure why this helps.



# Life & Style

## Kelly Clarkson responds to toxic workplace report

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kelly Clarkson has responded to a Rolling Stone report accusing her daytime talk show of being a toxic workplace.

Clarkson issued a statement on her Instagram page Saturday.

She addressed the allegations after 11 current and former employees complained about being overworked and underpaid on “The Kelly Clarkson Show” and also called their work “traumatizing to their mental health” in the magazine’s Friday report.

In the report, the anonymous employees called Clarkson “fantastic” but said show producers were “monsters” who made their lives “hell.”

Clarkson said she loves her team.

“To find out that anyone is feeling unheard and or disrespected on this show is unacceptable,” she said in the post. The talk show host said she wants to maintain a healthy and safe work environment.

“As we prepare for a move to the East Coast, I am more committed than ever to ensuring that not only our team is moving, but also our new team in NY is comprised of the best and kindest in the business,” she said. “Part of that build will include leadership training for all of the senior staff, including myself.”

Clarkson said that there’s “always room to grow” and that she wants the show to be the “best version of ourselves in any business.”

“Especially when it comes to leadership, to ensure that any notion of toxicity is eradicated,” she said.



Clarkson

## ‘Guardians Vol. 3’ and ‘Super Mario Bros.’ top box office again

By LINDSEY BAHR  
AP FILM WRITER

Several new movies infiltrated theaters nationwide this weekend, from a lighthearted trip to Italy with Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen, Diane Keaton and Mary Steenburgen to a Ben Affleck-fronted detective thriller. The two top spots were once again claimed by Marvel and Mario, however.

In its second weekend, “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3” added \$60.5 million from North American theaters, according to studio estimates on Sunday. That’s a slim 49% drop from its opening, which is rare for big superhero films that tend to be front-loaded and have big second weekend drops of 60% or more. As the smallest Marvel drop since the beginning of the pandemic, it also answers the “superhero fatigue” question that some floated last weekend. Including \$91.9 million from international showings, “Vol. 3” has already grossed over \$528.8 million worldwide.

Second place went to “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” with \$13 million in its sixth weekend, bringing its domestic grosses just shy of \$536 million. Families with younger children have had almost no other options at the theaters since Mario entered the picture, resulting in repeat viewings and its continued dominance at the box office, where it is still playing in

3,800 locations domestically. Globally, it’s at \$1.2 billion.

With Chris Pratt in the leading positions of chart-topping movies, as Star Lord in “Guardians” and the voice of Mario, debates have ensued about how much of the draw is star power versus brand power.

It was an especially crowded weekend for new movies, opening both wide and limited in all genres and of all qualities.

“The second weekend in May is very notable, traditionally speaking, because it bridges the gap between a big summer kickoff movie (“Guardians 3”) and the next big blockbuster (“Fast X”),” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. “Everyone in the business knew Guardians would dominate the weekend but it provided an opportunity for a lot of movies to get out there that hit that sweet spot between two behemoths.”

“Book Club: The Next Chapter” fared the best on the charts with \$6.5 million from

3,508 locations. The sequel, released by Focus Features on Mother’s Day weekend, reunites the cast with director Bill Holderman and his co-writer Erin Simms. Audiences were heavily female (77%), Caucasian (59%) and over 45 (66%) and the hope is that there will be a Mother’s Day boost and decent holdover for the \$20 million production. Older audiences typically don’t rush out on opening weekend. The first film opened to \$13.5 million in 2018 and went on to gross over \$104 million.

Robert Rodriguez’s “Hypnotic,” meanwhile, is bombing. The mystery starring Affleck as a detective whose daughter is missing cost a reported \$65 million to make. It went into the weekend with poor reviews (32% on Rotten Tomatoes) and limited marketing from distributor Ketchup Entertainment, and earned just \$2.4 million from 2,118 locations.

■ “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3,” \$60.5 million.	■ \$2.5 million.
■ “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” \$13 million.	■ “Hypnotic,” \$2.4 million.
■ “Book Club: The Next Chapter,” \$6.5 million.	■ “John Wick: Chapter 4,” \$1.9 million.
■ “Evil Dead Rise,” \$3.7 million.	■ “Love Again,” \$1.6 million.
■ “Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret.”	■ “Air,” \$875,357.
	■ Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves,” \$740,000.

## Cannes Film Festival readies a blockbuster edition

By JAKE COYLE  
AP FILM WRITER

The Cannes Film Festival, which will kick off Tuesday, is such a colossal extravaganza that taking measure of its ups and downs is notoriously difficult. It’s a showcase of the world’s best cinema. It’s a red-carpet spectacular. It’s a French Riviera hive of dealmaking.

But by at least some metrics, Cannes—following a canceled 2020 festival, a much-diminished 2021 edition and a triumphant 2022 return—is finally all the way back.

“Let’s just say it’s gotten very hard to get restaurant reservations again,” says Christine Vachon, the veteran producer and longtime collaborator of Todd Haynes.

When the 76th Cannes Film Festival opens Tuesday with the premiere of “Jeanne du Barry,” a historical drama by Maïwenn starring Johnny Depp, the gleaming Cote d’Azur pageant can feel confident that it has weathered the storms of the pandemic and the perceived threat of streaming. (Netflix and Cannes remain at an impasse.)

Last year’s festival, a banner one by most judgments, produced three Oscar best-

picture nominees (“Top Gun: Maverick,” “Elvis” and the Palme d’Or winner “Triangle of Sadness”), again proving Cannes as the premiere global launching pad for films big and small.

### A BLOCKBUSTER CANNES

This year’s festival is headlined by a pair of marquee premieres: Martin Scorsese’s Osage Nation 1920s epic “Killers of the Flower Moon,” with Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro, and James Mangold’s “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny,” starring Harrison Ford in his final performance as the character.

But as blockbuster as Cannes can be, even those films suggest the wide spectrum of cinema on hand. Both Scorsese and Mangold were first in Cannes decades ago to premiere their early breakthrough films in the Directors Fortnight sidebar. Scorsese with 1973’s “Mean Streets,” Mangold with 1995’s “Heavy.”

This time, though, they’ll debut much bigger films, sure to be the hottest tickets on the Croisette. Scorsese has his \$200 million epic for Apple TV+. And Mangold will premiere, as he says, “a more splendiferous project” than his

minimalist debut.

The “Indy” celebration will include a tribute to Ford. He, along with Michael Douglas, will be given honorary Palme d’Ors. To Mangold, it’s a chance for Ford to embrace the franchise’s international following. The “Indiana Jones” films’ essence, the director says, is rooted in golden-age cinema.

“These are things where you’re taking your guidance from the classics,” Mangold says. “That’s something that’s really appreciated by the French about American cinema. In many ways, they revere the old pictures more than even the audience in the United States do. That makes it a really wonderful platform.”

### A RECORD HIGH FOR FEMALE FILMMAKERS

This year, 21 films are competing for the Palme d’Or, which will be decided by a jury led by last year’s winner, Swedish writer-director Ruben Östlund. Seven are directed by women, a new high for Cannes in its nearly eight decades of existence. Among the most anticipated is Italian filmmaker Alice Rohrwacher’s “La Chimera,” starring Josh O’Connor and Isabella Rossellini.

## Wife in crumbling marriage takes stock of life, future

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 16 years, but after the birth of my first child, our marriage went downhill. My husband withdrew and went out with friends often. When my brother was in the hospital, I traveled three hours with my newborn baby to visit him. My husband drove up separately, stayed a few hours, then left to go to a concert with a female friend.

Our sex life dwindled down to nothing, and I felt like we were roommates. I became depressed and started having manic episodes. I’m on medication now and taking care of myself. I have always resented my husband for this. We have two kids now, and I’m afraid if I leave him it will hurt the children. I tried three different marriage counselors with him, but he wasn’t interested.

I now spend my time doing everything with the kids and focusing on my well-being. I met an old high school acquaintance on Facebook, and our friendship has turned romantic. I don’t see him often, but when I do, I want to be with him always. We are both scared of what could happen. I love him so much. He is kind, sweet and caring. Do I wait until the kids are 18 to leave?

READY FOR CHANGE IN THE EAST

DEAR READY: Make an appointment to talk with an attorney. When you do, be sure to ask what kind of financial information you may need to ensure you get a fair settle-

ment should you decide to end this charade of a marriage.

Once you have the information, tell your husband that the status quo isn’t good enough for you and offer him one more chance at marriage counseling. If he refuses—and he probably will—proceed with setting yourself free.

Raising children in the atmosphere you have described may be more damaging than getting a divorce. A warning, however: Once you become available on a full-time basis, your lover may not be ready or willing to become your knight in shining armor. Be prepared to fend for yourself, just in case.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I’m in love with two men at the same time, but one of them happens to be dead. Twelve years ago, I met a wonderful man, “Carl.” We had each other at “Hello” and became engaged two weeks later. We were very happily married until I lost him to cancer six years later.

Two years after I lost Carl, I decided to dip my toe back in the dating pool. A few months later, I met “Philip.” We also were immediately attracted to each other and are very happy together. We’ve been a couple for four years and will be married this summer. He’s very understanding about my feelings and memories of Carl. Am I wrong to marry this man I love dearly when I still have feelings for my late husband?

WONDERING WIDOW IN MISSOURI

## DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR WONDERING WIDOW: When a spouse dies, the love the couple had for each other doesn’t also die. The love you feel for Carl can last as long as you do, and you shouldn’t feel guilty about it. I have said many times that grief is an individual process. That you have fallen in love with Philip doesn’t lessen your love for your late husband. Celebrate your good fortune. I wish you and Philip a lifetime of happiness together.

■■■■■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)







# Tatum sets Game 7 record with 51 points, Celtics beat 76ers, 112-88



**BOSTON (AP)—**Jayson Tatum gave Boston a long-overdue fast start and followed it up with a finish the NBA had never seen before.

After struggling in back-to-back games, Tatum erupted for 51 points—the most in a Game 7 in history—and the Celtics beat the Philadelphia 76ers 112-88 on Sunday to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight year.

One game after missing 14 of his first 15 shots only to awaken in the fourth quarter in time to save their season, Tatum scored 25 in the back-and-forth first half and 17 more in Boston's 33-10 third quarter that turned a three-point lead into a runaway.

The Celtics, who lost to the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals last year, will face the Miami Heat in the East finals for the second straight season. Game 1 is on Wednesday in Boston.

"I was relieved just to get another chance. Our season could have been over after Game 6," said Tatum, who broke the Game 7 record of 50 points Stephen Curry set two weeks ago. "It definitely was on my mind that I had played as bad as it could get, for 43 minutes."

"We had a saying: 'It's only up from here.'"

Tatum added 13 rebounds and Jaylen Brown scored 25



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) receives applause as he steps off the court near the end of Game 7 against the Philadelphia 76ers in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series, Sunday, May 14, 2023, in Boston.

points for Boston, which rallied from a 3-2 deficit in the series to keep alive their hopes for an unprecedented 18th NBA championship.

"You always come into a series with the expectation of how it's supposed to go," said Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla, who is in his first year as an NBA head coach after being promoted on the eve of training camp after Ime Udoka was suspended. "That's not how the playoffs are."

Tatum was subbed out of the game with three minutes left to a standing ovation from the crowd, which soon broke out in a "Beat the Heat!" chant. Miami beat Boston in six games in the 2020 East finals and the Celtics took a seven-game matchup last season.

"It's the best time of the year," Tatum said. "As a competitor, I love the opportunity."

Newly crowned NBA MVP Joel Embiid scored 15 points on 5-for-18 shooting, and

Tobias Harris scored 19 for Philadelphia. The Sixers lost in the conference semifinals for the third straight year, and the fifth time in six seasons; they have not gotten any farther since reaching the NBA Finals in 2001 despite "The Process"—tanking their way to four top-three draft picks in a row, including Embiid.

"I thought we had the right group. I really did," said Sixers coach Doc Rivers, who was on the Boston bench when

the Celtics won it all in 2008. "We played great all year and this loss absolutely diminishes what we did this year in some way. ... I think this team is headed right. I thought we took another step this season. And then tonight I think we took a step backward. But that's OK. That happens, too."

Tatum started 0 for 6 in a Game 5 loss and missed 14 of his first 15 shots overall from the floor in Game 6 before making four 3-pointers in the final 4:14 to force the decisive seventh game.

He picked up where he left off, scoring Boston's first basket and 11 points in the first quarter, 14 more in the second and outscoring the Sixers on his own, 17-10, in the third. The 33-10 edge in the third was the most lopsided quarter in a Game 7 since at least 1997.

"JT just got it going and got out of that man's way," Brown said. "He got it rolling, and there's nothing they could do to stop him."

## BANGED-UP BROWN

Brown began the game with the black mask he has worn since breaking a bone in his face before the All-Star break. He took it off and soon absorbed an elbow to the face from James Harden, who was assessed a flagrant foul.

Brown continued without the mask but finished the half with cotton in his left nostril. He also played with an edge, making both foul shots and

following it with a steal and layup as Boston went on a 9-0 run to erase a 35-26 deficit.

Brown also dove into the Sixers bench to save a ball, then had words with the bench after Georges Niang grabbed his leg and kept him from getting back on the court. Both players were given technical fouls.

Williams followed the commotion with a layup that tied the score 35-all.

"Nothing like a shot to the face to wake you right up," Brown said.

## WHAT'S UP, DOC?

Rivers is 6-10 in seventh games. The 10 defeats are five more than any other NBA coach and three more than the NHL's Mike Babcock and Bruce Boudreau. His teams are 6-16 in their last 22 chances to close out an opponent in a playoff series.

Asked if he expected to be back next year, Rivers said: "Yeah. I think I got two years left. No one is safe in our business and I get that."

Harden also could be gone if the Sixers opt for an overhaul. He has the opportunity to become a free agent this offseason.

"We've got an unfinished job. We haven't won anything and I think we've got the chance to win," Embiid said. "We've got what it takes to win. ... I still believe me and him have the chance to win. But it's going to take more than us."

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Ja Morant was suspended by the Memphis Grizzlies on Sunday after he appeared to be holding a gun in another social media video that was streamed live on Instagram, the latest in a series of concerning incidents involving the two-time All-Star guard.

It's the second time in less than three months that Morant was seen on Instagram holding what appeared to be a weapon. The first led to an eight-game NBA suspension that was handed down in March and cost Morant about \$669,000 in salary.

It's unclear what sanctions Morant may face for the second video, which was captured Saturday night and widely shared online. The video was streamed on the Instagram account of Morant associate Davonte Pack, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because neither the NBA nor the Grizzlies have commented on the specifics of the latest video.

"We are aware of the social media post involving Ja Morant and are in the process

## Grizzlies suspend Morant after another gun video appears on social media

of gathering more information," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said.

The Grizzlies, whose season is over, said Morant is suspended from all team activities "pending league review."

The video streamed by Pack shows Morant in the passenger seat of a vehicle, briefly appearing to display a handgun. At the very brief moment—maybe less than a second—when Morant is shown holding what appears to be a weapon, the livestream had 111 viewers.

The video that got Morant suspended during the season happened when the Grizzlies star went live on his own Instagram account while holding a gun at a club in the Denver suburbs in early March. After that went viral, Morant announced that he was taking time away from basketball to seek help, without specifying what sort of treatment he was getting. ESPN later reported that he was getting counseling in Florida, which the team eventually confirmed but did not share any details.

"Ja's conduct was irresponsible, reckless and potentially

very dangerous," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement after meeting with Morant and deciding on the suspension's length. "It also has serious consequences given his enormous following and influence, particularly among young fans who look up to him."

"He has expressed sincere contrition and remorse for his behavior," Silver continued. "Ja has also made it clear to me that he has learned from this incident and that he understands his obligations and responsibility to the Memphis Grizzlies and the broader NBA community extend well beyond his play on the court."

Morant sat down for an interview with ESPN during his suspension, taking responsibility for the video.

"I don't condone any type of violence," Morant told ESPN. "But I take full responsibility for my actions. I made a bad mistake and I can see the image that I painted over myself with my recent mistakes. But in the future, I'm going to show everybody who Ja really is, what I'm about and change

this narrative."

When the season ended a couple weeks ago, Morant said again that he needed to work on his decision-making.

"Being disciplined on both sides, off the court making better decisions and on the court being locked in even more," Morant said following a season-ending loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. "Being a leader of this team, it pretty much starts with me. ... I've got to be better in that area."

Morant's five-year, \$194 million max contract is set to begin this coming season. It could have escalated to a supermax if he made All-NBA this season; he was not voted onto that team, which cost him about \$39 million in future earnings. He has endorsement deals with Nike and Powerade, though the sports drink company pulled an ad featuring Morant almost immediately after the March video emerged.

His talent on the court is not a question. He averaged 27.4 points last season, 26.2 points this season and helped Memphis secure the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

But the Grizzlies' season ended amid dysfunction. They were ousted in Round 1 by the Lakers, getting eliminated in a 40-point loss to close a series where trash-talking and antics became as much of a storyline as actual playing of basketball.

And the offseason is now off to a less-than-ideal start as well, especially after Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins said following the playoffs that the team has to eliminate "unnecessary drama, self-inflicted decisions that take away from the team."

"It has to be completely different going into next year," Jenkins said.

This will be at least the third known NBA investigation surrounding Morant and the possible involvement of firearms so far in 2023.

Morant's actions were investigated after a Jan. 29 incident in Memphis that he said led to Pack—someone Morant calls "my brother"—banned from Grizzlies' home games for a year.

That incident followed a game against the Indiana Pacers; citing unnamed sources, The Indianapolis Star and USA

Today reported that multiple members of the Pacers saw a red dot pointed at them while they were near the loading dock where their bus was located, and The Athletic reported that a Pacers security guard believed the laser was attached to a gun.

The NBA confirmed that unnamed individuals were banned from the arena but said its investigation found no evidence that anyone was threatened with a weapon.

Then came the Denver-area incident in the early hours of March 4, after the Grizzlies played a road game against the Nuggets. At 5:19 a.m., Morant started a livestream from inside a strip club called Shotgun Willys in Glendale, Colorado. No charges were filed and police said there were no complaint calls stemming from Morant holding the gun.

Morant and Pack also are involved in a civil lawsuit brought after an incident at Morant's home last summer, in which a then-17-year-old alleged that they assaulted him. Morant filed a countersuit on April 12, accusing the teen of slander, battery and assault.



# Freeland pitches Rockies past Phillies 4-0 on 30th birthday



**DENVER**  
(A P) — Philadelphia Phil-

lies star Bryce Harper was ejected for charging Colorado's dugout, and Kyle Freeland dominated for six innings on his 30th birthday in the Rockies' 4-0 win Sunday.

Harper appeared to respond to Colorado reliever Jake Bird, who clapped a hand against his glove and said something in the direction of the Philadelphia dugout after the last out of the top of the seventh.

Harper was initially restrained by Rockies catcher Elias Díaz, then Phillies third base coach Dusty Wathan prevented the two-time NL MVP from entering a group of players and coaches gathered near the first-base line.

Bird was also ejected. Phillies manager Rob Thomson had been thrown out the previous inning after arguing with plate umpire Ryan Wills over a called third strike on Kyle Schwarber. Philadelphia's season-high five-game winning streak was stopped.

Colorado has won nine of 13 following an 8-20 start. Freeland (4-4) allowed four hits and struck out eight.

Aaron Nola (3-3) gave up four runs in seven innings.

## DODGERS 4, PADRES 0

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Tony Gonsolin and four relievers combined on a three-hitter, Mookie Betts launched a two-run homer and Los Angeles blanked San Diego to complete a three-game sweep for its fifth straight victory.

Gonsolin (1-1) allowed two hits over five innings, struck out six and walked one in lowering his ERA to 1.42 in the Dodgers' third shutout of the season.

Miguel Vargas had a two-run double in the sixth after Brent Honeywell replaced Ryan Weathers (1-2), who was recalled from Triple-A El Paso to make his fourth start this season.

San Diego scored just four runs in the series. The Padres have lost five in a row and seven of eight.

## RAYS 8, YANKEES 7

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Taylor Walls broke a fifth-inning tie with a grand slam off Albert Abreu, and Tampa Bay held off New York to gain a four-game split.

Aaron Judge ended the game with a 399-foot flyout that Jose Siri caught in front of the center-field wall, giving Jason Adam his fifth save.

Down 3-0, the Yankees went ahead in the third on two-run homers by Oswaldo Cabrera and Anthony Rizzo off Zach Eflin (5-1).

New York center fielder

Harrison Bader made a sensational catch that limited Randy Arozarena to a tying sacrifice fly against Clarke Schmidt (1-4).

## BLUE JAYS 6, BRAVES 5

**TORONTO** (AP)—Danny Jansen hit a two-run single in the ninth inning and Toronto rallied past Atlanta to complete a three-game sweep.

With the Blue Jays trailing 5-4, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. thought he tied the game to begin the ninth, pumping his fist as he watched his deep drive to right field. But Guerrero was held to a single when the ball hit the wall.

Toronto loaded the bases with two outs before Jansen singled off Raisel Iglesias (1-1), driving in Guerrero and Matt Chapman.

Ozzie Albies hit a two-run homer, and Ronald Acuña Jr. and Kevin Pillar each added a solo shot for the Braves, who have lost nine straight to Toronto.

Nate Pearson (1-0) worked one inning for the win.

## CARDINALS 9, RED SOX 1

**BOSTON** (AP)—Nolan Arenado and Andrew Knizner each hit a two-run homer, and St. Louis routed Boston to complete a three-game sweep.

Paul DeJong added a solo shot and Arenado drove in four runs for the Cardinals, who won for the sixth time in seven games since an eight-game losing streak. Their previous two wins came on ninth-inning rallies against closer Kenley Jansen at Fenway Park.

Lars Nootbaar had three hits and scored three times for St. Louis. Miles Mikolas (2-1) pitched six innings of one-run ball.

Corey Kluber (2-5) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings as the Red Sox lost for the fifth time in six games.

It was the first series sweep this season for St. Louis (16-25), which owns the NL's worst record. Arenado homered over the Green Monster once in each game of the series.

## PIRATES 4, ORIOLES 0

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Mitch Keller struck out a career-high 13 in his second straight outstanding start, and Pittsburgh blanked Baltimore to win for only the second time in 13 games.

The Pirates avoided a sweep after dropping the first two games of the series. Keller (5-1) allowed four hits in seven innings and did not walk a batter. Colin Holderman and David Bednar pitched out of trouble to close it out.

Ji Hwan Bae had a two-run single. Kyle Gibson (4-3) gave



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, center left, is restrained by first base umpire Ben May, front left, and Phillies third base coach Dusty Wathan, right, after reacting to a taunt at the Phillies dugout by Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Jake Bird in the seventh inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 14, 2023, in Denver.

up four runs in five innings for the Orioles.

## ASTROS 4, WHITE SOX 3

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Yainer Diaz hit his first major league home run to back rookie Hunter Brown (4-1), who allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings and tied his career high with eight strikeouts.

Houston won for the fourth time in five games.

Yordan Alvarez hit a two-run double in the first, advanced on shortstop Tim Anderson's throwing error and scored on Kyle Tucker's sacrifice fly as the Astros built a 3-0 lead. Diaz homered off Lucas Giolito (2-3) in the fourth.

Ryan Pressly pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save.

## GUARDIANS 4, ANGELS 3

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Josh Naylor hit a three-run homer off Carlos Estévez in the eighth, his third go-ahead homer in three days in that same inning.

Angels starter Patrick Sandoval (3-2) had held the Guardians to five hits in 7 2/3 innings.

James Karinchak (1-4) got one out in the eighth, retiring pinch-hitter Mike Trout on a drive to center knocked down by the wind.

Emmanuel Clase gave up Shohei Ohtani's two-run single in the ninth before retiring Brandon Drury for his 14th save as the Guardians won the series.

## RANGERS 11, ATHLETICS 3

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Adolis García doubled against Austin Pruitt (0-1) to start an eight-run eighth inning capped by his second grand slam this season as Texas took three of four in the series.

García had three hits and five RBIs. He has 10 hom-

ers and leads the majors with 42 RBIs.

Oakland dropped to a major league-worst 9-33 and is on pace finish 35-127. The game drew 7,793 to the Coliseum, the finale of a four-game series that totaled 25,547.

Texas led 3-1 on Robbie Grossman's two-run homer and García's RBI single before Shea Langeliers hit a two-run homer in the seventh off Jonathan Hernández (1-1).

## DIAMONDBACKS 2, GIANTS 1

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Lourdes Gurriel Jr. drove home Christian Walker with a double in the ninth inning, lifting Arizona over San Francisco.

The Diamondbacks won three of four in the series and improved to 23-18.

Walker started the winning rally with a walk against reliever Tyler Rogers (0-3).

Michael Conforto opened the scoring with a homer for San Francisco in the fourth. Josh Rojas had an RBI double for Arizona in the fifth.

Miguel Castro (2-1) got the win with a scoreless ninth, striking out two.

## NATIONALS 3, METS 2, METS 8, NATIONALS 2

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Max Scherzer pitched five steady innings in his return from neck spasms and New York finally broke loose for eight runs in the fifth to beat Washington.

Slumping outfielders Starling Marte and Mark Canha both had two hits and two RBIs during New York's biggest inning this season.

After losing 3-2 hours earlier in the completion of a game suspended Saturday because of rain, the \$355 million Mets (20-21) improved to 6-14 in their last 20.

The 38-year-old Scherzer

(3-2) allowed one run and two hits against his former team, striking out six and walking two. He threw 83 pitches and lowered his ERA to 4.88.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner was scratched from his scheduled start last Tuesday in Cincinnati due to neck spasms.

Jake Irvin (1-1) took his first major league loss, permitting a career-high six runs in 4 2/3 innings.

In the completion of Saturday's game, suspended in the third inning after a rain delay that lasted 3 hours, 56 minutes, Nationals center fielder Alex Call made a pair of outstanding defensive plays in the ninth to preserve a 3-2 win.

CJ Abrams broke a 2-all tie in the seventh with a home run off Dominic Leone (0-1). Kyle Finnegan notched his eighth save.

Call also made a nice running catch for the final out of the seventh to back Hunter Harvey (2-0), who pitched 1 2/3 hitless innings.

## TIGERS 5, MARINERS 3

**DETROIT** (AP)—Riley Greene had three hits, Javier Báez drove in two runs and Detroit beat Seattle to prevent a three-game sweep.

With the bases loaded in the seventh inning, Mariners reliever Matt Brash hit Nick Maton on the foot with a pitch to force in the go-ahead run. Brash then walked Andy Ibáñez, making it 5-3.

Akil Baddoo knocked in the tying run for the Tigers with an RBI double in the sixth.

Jason Foley (1-1) pitched a scoreless seventh and Alex Lange struck out two in a hitless ninth for his seventh save. He whiffed Teoscar Hernández with two on to end it.

Gabe Speier (1-1) took the loss.

## TWINS 16, CUBS 3

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Trevor Larnach hit a three-run homer, Joey Gallo connected for the second straight game and Louie Varland pitched 6 1/3 solid innings as Minnesota routed Chicago.

Varland (1-0) earned his second career win in his ninth major league start for his hometown Twins, who won their second consecutive series. They posted season highs in runs and hits (18) for the second game in a row after Saturday's 11-1 victory against the Cubs.

Larnach, in his second game since being recalled from Triple-A to replace injured Max Kepler, hit his fourth homer of the season as part of a seven-run third.

Marcus Stroman (2-4) gave up six runs in 2 2/3 innings, his shortest outing that wasn't cut short due to injury or weather since 2018. Christopher Morel and Seiya Suzuki homered for Chicago, which has lost five of seven.

## MARLINS 3, REDS 1

**MIAMI** (AP)—Bryan De La Cruz doubled twice and singled, and Miami avoided a three-game sweep against Cincinnati.

Activated from the injured list before the game, Garrett Cooper had two hits and drove in a run for the Marlins, who snapped a five-game home skid.

Cooper's RBI double and De La Cruz's run-scoring single in the seventh broke a 1-all tie. Garrett Hampson doubled against Kevin Herget (1-1) to lead off the inning.

Tanner Scott (3-1) pitched a scoreless seventh and Dylan Floro closed for his second save.

## BREWERS 9, ROYALS 6

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Christian Yelich homered in the first inning and scored on a bizarre play as part of Milwaukee's seven-run outburst against Kansas City in the third.

Brice Turang added a three-run shot and Mike Brosseau also homered as the NL Central leaders completed a three-game sweep.

Kansas City's Salvador Perez homered for the second straight day, Bobby Witt Jr. had a homer and a two-run double, and Hunter Dozier also went deep. The Royals have homered in 13 straight games for the longest active streak in the majors.

Jordan Lyles (0-7) allowed seven runs on four hits and three walks in 2 1/3 innings.

Eric Lauer (4-4) struck out six and permitted two runs and two hits over 5 1/3 innings in his first relief appearance since 2021.



# Kim wins first monthly CWGA tourney of '23 season



SaeHee Kim, sixth from left, topped the CNMI Women's Golf Association's May tournament last Saturday, May 13, at the Coral Ocean Golf Resort.

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



SaeHee Kim won the CNMI Women's Golf Association's first monthly

tournament of the season after topping the May edition last Saturday, May 13, at the Coral Ocean Golf Resort.

Kim shot a net 61 after firing a gross of 76. The 15-handicapper fired a 40 in the front nine before improving by four strokes in the back nine for a terrific 36.

"The weather was so hot with no wind. But the course

was so nice and well maintained," she said about last Saturday's playing conditions.

Asked what worked for her during the May tournament, Kim pretty much said almost every aspect of her game was automatic.

"My driver, iron, putter was working so well. I was so satisfied with my game last Saturday," she said.

Kim then dedicated her win to her loving family, especially her husband, Wan Sub Lee, who also serves as her coach.

"I am so honored to be the winner of the month at the beginning of the new season," she said.

It marked only the second time Kim has won in the CWGA after recording her breakthrough win last March.

CGWA president Yuko Togawa was a distant second with a net of 68. The 9-handicapper shot a gross of 77 built around a 39 and 38 in the first and last nine holes, respectively.

Third place went to Sophia Jang who came away with a stroke higher than Togawa's total with her 69. She carded a 44 in the front nine before retiring with a 43 in the back nine for a gross of 87 for the 18-handicapper.

Nineteen-handicapper Ter-

ry Guerrero actually tied Jang for third but lost via scorecard tiebreaker. The former got to 69 via the strength of her 45-44 and gross 88 score.

A total of 10 CWGA members took to the course in last Saturday's May tournament and rest of the players, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Jannet Torres (70), Nirimai Koebel (71), Dol Yamagishi (79), Flor Jones (82), Lorraine Babauta (87), and Rose Rohringer (87).

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a mem-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A total of 10 CNMI Women's Golf Association members took part in the first tournament of the season last Saturday, May 13, at the Coral Ocean Golf Resort.

ber of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-

9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

## KANOA

From Page 20

League championships last Thursday, Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez collected Kanoa's first two goals just five minutes into the match.

Audrey Castro made it 3-0 by the 9th minute as SUFC could not get a handle on the ball.

The ball went to and fro on the pitch after that as both teams struggled for possession, with SUFC trying to put at least one on the board.

However, the first half died down and it was still a 3-0 game. SUFC could not catch a break as Kanoa's defenses were slick and pressured them to make off attempts at the goal resulting in nothing to show for it.

Then, in the 34th minute, Mia Abuan made it a 4-0 game. SUFC still could not find the back of the net and their goalie eventually gave up two more goals—one more to Castro and the last one to Aubrey White in the 59th minute.

In the lineup with Chavez, Abuan, Castro, and White, are Deseha Mendiola, Julie Anne Chavez, Joselynn Atalig, Aubrey Castro, Sophia Quintos, Elikristiana Iglecias, Vianca Mangulabnan, Ye Lynn Ha, Alejandra Manabat, Ritalynn Lizama, Rionica Lizama, Beatrice Gross, Jessica Mirefel, and Moteisou Hayyn.

In the boys final matchup, top seed Kanoa was silenced as the second seed Tan Holdings stole the W in a 3-0 contest.

Both teams were evenly matched from the get-go as they played the last game

of the night.

Only in the 12th minute did the first goal register off the cleat of Isiah Hossain and silence reigned again.

Kanoa could not get a hold of the ball long enough to make accurate and well placed shots at the net, resulting in still no goal, until Hossain made it a 2-0 right before the end of the first half.

Tan Holdings could taste victory as the game went on without any retaliation from Kanoa, but Kanoa pushed their hardest to score—which was all for nought as Tan Holdings' goalie and defenders were a tough nut to crack.

In the end, Anthony Austria scored the third goal in the 49th minute and Tan Holding held off Kanoa to win the championship.

With Hossain and Austria

in the Tan Holdings lineup are Zhi Xiang Lin, Jonne Navarro, Mark Costales, Sernantie Jimenez, Mark Patubo, Monico Claridades, Daniel Sano,

Christian Lucero, James Mercader, Jeane Merjilla, Nason Wessel, Anthony Bergancia, Mark Chavez, Terell Kilelman-Hix, Emerson Brillo, and

Lerry Marquez.

Results of the 12U and 14U boys and girls championships will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

## CHAVEZ

From Page 20

Chavez also previously won the award in 2021 and said that she was surprised that she won again. "There were a lot of good competitors so when I found out I got this, I was actually surprised. All my hard work paid off so I felt blessed and very happy to get this," she said. On her perfect score, "I'm glad I was able to get a perfect score especially in the relay. It was really hard to get gold in the relay, so props to my girls. Without them I wouldn't have been able to get gold for it."

She then thanked her team, SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder, and her parents. "Without them, I wouldn't be able to get this and they've always been there for me, so thank you."

For MHS junior Shimizu, he racked up gold in the 400m and 800m, and silver in the 200m, 4X400m, and 4X100m relays.

He said that "it feels good to win the award... the competition was actually very hard. I got MVP in a close match, but I'm glad I won."

Before the ceremony, Glenn made her remarks and said "It is both an honor and privilege to host today's award ceremony... Each of you receiving today's

award symbolizes excellence in athleticism and a key role in contributing to the success of your entire team. You also represent motivation, courage, dedication, and above all teamwork.

"McDonald's is proud to shine the light on our young athletes and to highlight the importance of important events that bring people, families, and communities together like this annual track and field competition. We will continue to play a role in supporting you and the sport that you've grown to love and enjoy," she said.

She then thanked the coaches, NMA, and the families "for the countless hours you've spent in molding the next generation of athletes that believes in good sportsmanship. On behalf of the entire McDonald's of Saipan restaurants and on behalf of my family—the Ayuyu family, congratulations again to our distinguished MVPs. You are an inspiration to the schools that you represent and the island that you call home."

Top athletes of the elementary and middle school divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School sophomore Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, center, is the 18U girls MVP of the 2022-2023 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships. She is joined by McDonald's executive assistant Natalie Mabel A. Glenn, second right, PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross, right, NMA athletics coach Elias Rangamar, second left, and a McDonald's employee yesterday afternoon at the awarding ceremony in the McDonald's main restaurant in Chalan Kiya.

## BEARS

From Page 20

then two came in the last inning off a clutch RBI single by Kimo Angailen and pinch hitter Anthony Leon Guerrero.

To start off baseball last week on Tuesday night, the Falcons blew the D-9ers out of the field on a wild 20 run frenzy for a shortened run-ruled mercy game.

The Falcons were red hot from the get-go when they scored five in the first inning. The D-9ers pitcher could not get himself out of a jam as the Falcons swung at almost ev-

ery pitch he threw and pressured the defense as well.

In that first inning alone, Ben Lizama walked four batters, gave up three singles, and to top it off, his defense committed three errors—which the Falcons gladly capitalized on.

The second inning was not any better for the D-9ers as they only scored two in the first for a 5-2 game. To add salt on their wounds, the Falcons' steaming hot bats branded the D-9ers with six more runs, then three in the third.

The D-9ers only came up with two in the third off Tindin DeLeon Guerrero's hit

that resulted from an error, followed up by an RBI single by Jeremy Atalig.

Six more runs came in the fourth inning for the Falcons with a perfect night for Giovanni Mira as he went 4-for-4 at-bats and had an RBI double. Henry Aguon gave the triple for a spin around the bases which resulted in three runs batted in.

When the D-9ers only conjured up one more run, the game was called off and ended early.

Results of last Thursday's and last Friday's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.





Tatum sets Game 7 record with 51 points, Celtics beat 76ers, 112-88.  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Kim wins first monthly CWGA tourney of '23 season.  
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20 TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Kanoa, Tan Holdings are 17U champs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 17U Tan Holdings Football Club are the 17U boys champions of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 after they defeated Kanoa FC, 3-0, last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The 17U girls Kanoa Football Club and 17U boys Tan Holdings Football Club are the 17U soccer champions of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



The Kanoa FC girls overpowered Southern United FC, 6-0, while Tan Holdings FC boys defeated Kanoa FC, 3-0.

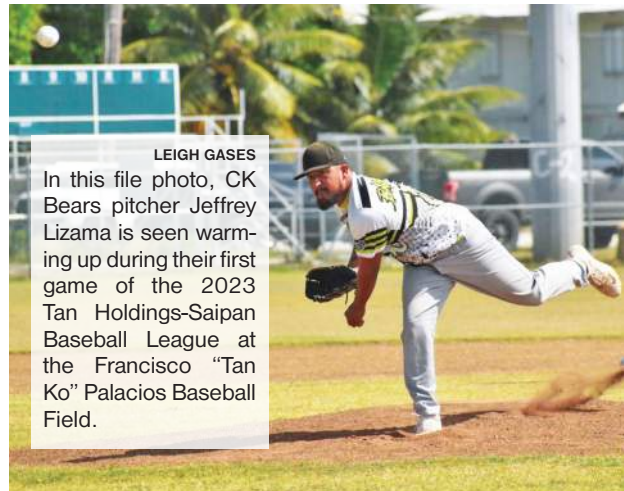
The Kanoa girls steamrolled through the season undefeated and were the No. 1 seed head-

ing into the playoffs. They sat pretty as they waited for the other playoff matches to be determined and faced off Shirley's in the semifinals, won in a blowout match, and made their way to the finals against SUFC.

Fresh off the 2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer

See KANOA on Page 19

### Bears, Falcons tear through baseball foes



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, CK Bears pitcher Jeffrey Lizama is seen warming up during their first game of the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CK Bears and Falcons tore through their foes in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday and Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Bears outscored the Natives, 6-4, on Wednesday, while the Falcons soared above the D-9ers, 20-5, on Tuesday.

The Bears and Natives were in a pitching duel as both teams went scoreless in many innings.

The Natives drew first blood in the second inning with a base on balls to Keoni Lizama, followed by a base hit from Ankie Guerrero. Larson Sibetang brought them both in for a

two run lead.

The Bears had a slow start with no runs in the first couple of innings, but their bats heated up in the third when a lead-off single by Virgil Secharmidal started the offense. Another base knock was made by Dennis Cabrera, followed by a strikeout, then a hit by pitch.

Three runs scored in that inning and the game was a close 3-2. The Natives, on the other hand, went ice cold for two scoreless innings and only two more runs were made in the fifth off a double by Mario Salas and an RBI-triple by Ben Leon Guerrero, who then rounded the bases after a single by Sibetang.

One more run was made by the Bears in the fourth,

See BEARS on Page 19

The girls 17U Kanoa Football Club are the 17U girls champions of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2023 after they blanked Southern United FC, 6-0, last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### Chavez, Shimizu are HS athletics MVPs

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Northern Marianas Athletics, the Public School System, and McDonald's Saipan and Guam awarded the top athletes of the 2022-2023 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded over a week ago.

Saipan International School's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez and Marianas High School's Cody Shimizu took home the MVP trophies in



LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School junior Cody Shimizu, center, is the 18U boys MVP of the 2022-2023 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships. She is joined by McDonald's executive assistant Natalie Mabel A. Glenn, second right, PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross, right, NMA athletics coach Elias Rangamar, second left, and a McDonald's employee yesterday afternoon at the awarding ceremony in the McDonald's main restaurant in Chalan Kiya.

the high school 18U division during the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Awards Ceremony yesterday at the main McDonald's branch in Chalan Kiya.

In attendance were McDonald's executive assistant Natalie Mable A. Glenn, NMA official and athletics coach Elias Rangamar, PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross, PSS staff, and the student athlete awardees and their parents.

Chavez, a 16-year-old sophomore, swept the championships and garnered gold in all the high school events that she joined for a perfect 50 points. She joined the 400m, 800m, 4X400m relay, and 4X100m relay.

See CHAVEZ on Page 19